Jiu Jiu

4

Story & Art by

Touya Tobina

Jiu Jiu

Vol. 4

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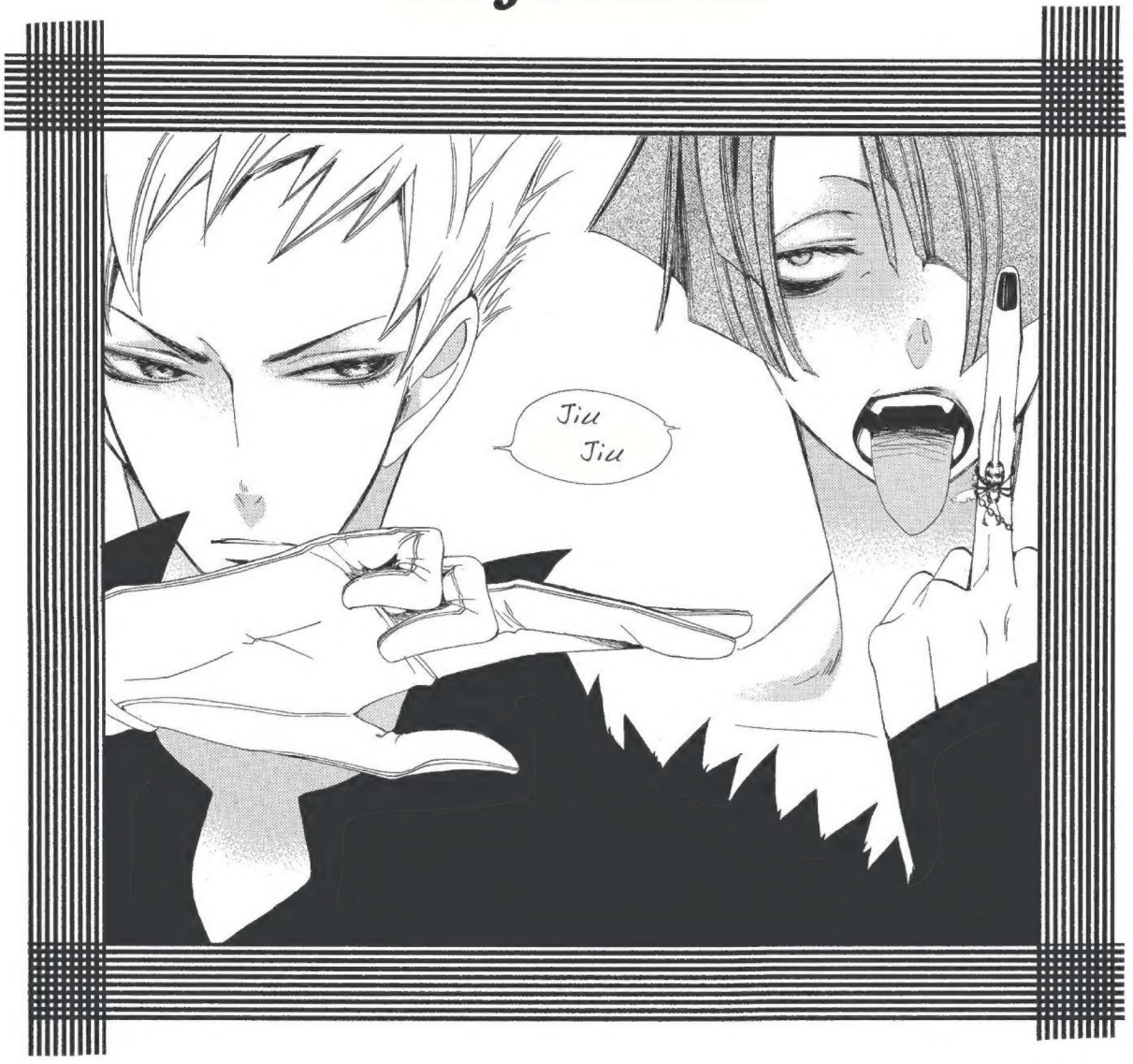

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JIU JIU

獣従 — WALK 16: JUMBLE

MON-
STERS
...
SOMETIMES THEY MEAN PEOPLE HARM.
SN
NK
K
THOSE WHO RID THE WORLD OF MONSTERS ARE CALLED...
...HUNTERS.
AND I AM THE HEIR OF THE HEAD FAMILY OF A HUNTER CLAN...
...
TAKA-
MICHI
MIS-
TRESS
TAKA-
MICHI!
PLEASE!
KEEP
YOUR
HEAD
DOWN!

!
FOR PITY'S SAKE!
THIS AREA IS CRAWLING WITH SPUNKIES!
...
IT... IS?
THEIR LEADER COULD BE LURKING SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

TWO JIU JIU...!
IS THAT OUTFIT SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE...?
CROW TENGU: RIPPLE
THESE TWO ARE THE FAMILIARS OF MONSTER HUNTERS.
SICKLE WEASEL AND TRANSFORMING FOX: WHITE
IT'S JUST A SCHOOL UNIFORM. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
OH COME ON, WHITE! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TRANSFORM INTO THAT?!
COME ON!
LET'S GO! ♪

AFTER ALL, WE'RE YOUR JIU JIU NOW, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
!! Go...? Go where?!
WHY, TO SCHOOL WITH YOU, OF COURSE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
MY WOUND'S ALL HEALED UP, THANKS TO YOU.
OH, THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO SCHOOL!! NOPE, NOPE!
BUT SNOW AND NIGHT ATTENDED SCHOOL WITH YOU, DIDN'T THEY?
THAT MEANS...
...WE'VE GOT TO GO WITH YOU TOO.

WELL...? EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
WHY DID YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD ON THE SHIRATORI CLAN FAMILY HEAD?
ANSWER ME, TAKAMICHI.
HACHIOJI CLAN CURRENT FAMILY HEAD SHUREN HACHIOJI (TAKAMICHI'S FATHER)
BE-CAUSE I HEARD THAT YUKI ...

...MY ELDER BROTHER TAKAYUKI...
...WAS KILLED BY HIM— BY THE CURRENT SHIRATORI CLAN FAMILY HEAD.
MRMR MRMR
TAKAMICHI ...
TAKAYUKI DIED IN A MONSTER HUNTING ACCIDENT...
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE. YOU WERE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
NOW THEN ...
MIKA! WHAT DID YOU—?
MIKA ACTED ...
...ON BEHALF OF HIS JIU JIU, WHITE.

THERE'S NO NEED TO STAND UP FOR HIM!
HE TRIED TO KILL YOU, YOU KNOW!
NO...
WHEN I VISITED THE NEKOZANE HOUSE...
...I ACCIDENTALLY KILLED WHITE'S PARENTS.
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE WHITE'S PARENTS AT THE TIME. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE SORROW OF LOSING ONE'S FAMILY...
I'M TO BLAME FOR THAT TRAGEDY.
AH, I SEE.
YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART.
...
BUT THAT DOESN'T RESOLVE ANYTHING.
WELL...
THE CHILDREN SEEM TO HAVE LEARNT THEIR LESSON, SO LET'S GO EASY ON THEM.
AND- LUCKILY- THERE WERE NO HUMAN INJURIES.

SNOW'S INJURY IS ALL MY FAULT...!
I'M REALLY SORRY!!
HOWEVER, I HEARD THAT...
...YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S JIU JIU SNOW WAS WOUNDED IN THE ENSUING FRAY.
WHAT HAPPENED? TELL ME.
!
RIPPLE...
SO EACH OF YOU BELIEVED YOU WERE ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF YOUR MASTERS.
I SEE ...
NOD

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE HALF BLOODS AREN'T THE ONLY SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE THIS TIME.
WITH SUCH STRONG BONDS...
...THINK OF THE CONSE-QUENCES IF THEIR MASTERS TOOK A WRONG TURN.
SHUREN, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S DANGEROUS TO EMPLOY SUCH UNSTABLE CREATURES AS SERVANTS?
HUMANS CAN BE UNSTABLE TOO, YOU KNOW.
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT WERE TO OCCUR, WE'D HAVE A BIG PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS IF THE HALF BLOODS WERE UNWILLING TO FOLLOW ANOTHER PERSON'S ORDERS.
!
SI-LENCE, HALF BLOOD!
THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN !!
UM ...
I WAS ONLY SPEAKING HYPO-THETI-CALLY.
RIGHT.
IF THEIR MASTER WERE TO DIE, THEN...
THEY MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE OBEISANCE TO ANYONE.
!
...SOME SORT OF... EXCHANGE PROGRAM?
HOW ABOUT...

AFTER OLD HEBIZUKA'S DECREE, THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.
How's your wound..?
Not too bad.
Be good, okay?
Uh-huh.
You too, Takamichi.
Take care of yourself, all right?
AN... EX-CHANGE ?
OF JIU JIU ...?
YES.
IF THEY TURN OUT TO BE INTRACTABLE AFTER THAT, WE'LL DISPOSE OF THEM.
TUP
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
...
TAKAMICHI ...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
...

WHEN WE COME BACK...
...MAKE SURE TO TELL US WHAT GOOD DOGS WE WERE, OKAY? PROMISE?
PROM-ISE.
GO ON NOW!
AND SO I WAS SEPARATED FROM SNOW AND NIGHT UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR- AND THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING.
Hey!
Wait!
AND NOW I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MIKA'S JIU JITSU, WHITE...
SCHOOL IS REALLY BORING, YOU KNOW!!
That's right!
...AND SEIJURO'S JIU JITSU, RIPPLE.
Don't worry. We're not expecting to play and have fun with you.
WAIT... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
...IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON YOU DON'T WANT US TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH YOU? A SECRET REASON?

One year later, Jiu Jiu volume 4...

Are you guy's comin' after me?!

Uh... Well, to be exact, you ladies!!

?? Well, 80% ladies...!

Snow and Night are almost four years old. That would make them about thirty years old according to the age ratio for large dogs, right? Or would they age differently because they're half human?

Hyogo Prefecture: Chinatty

Um, well, you know, some people do look young for their age. I think that explains it. But then again... I kind of like the idea of middle-aged Night and Snow!

Hello! Tobi-meow here.

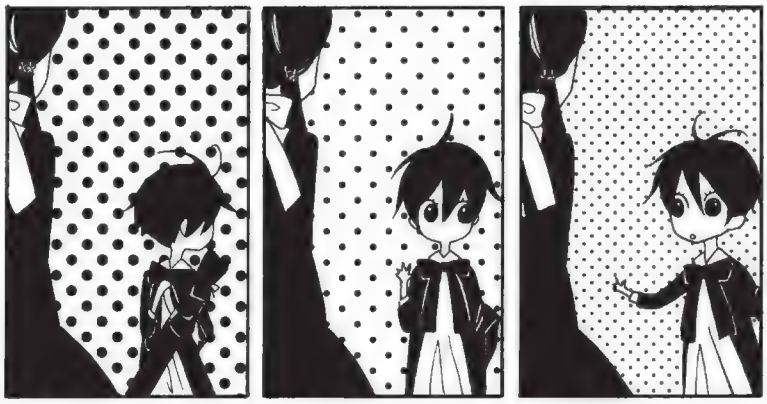
What gender are you, Tobina?

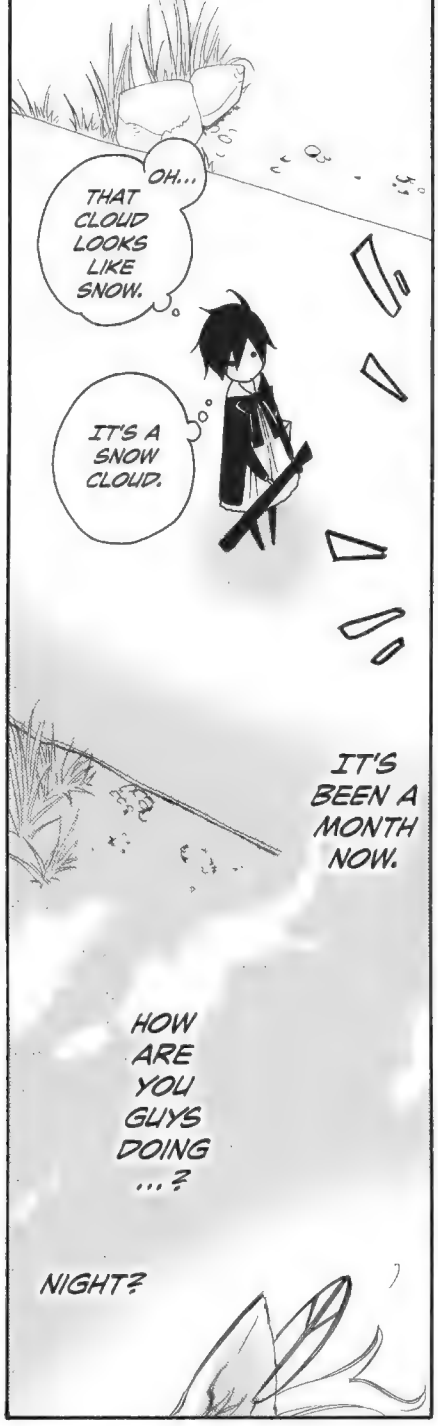
Tottori Prefecture: Tobunki and many others

I've received a lot of questions about this. I hope you're not disappointed that I'm female!! Hmph. I have such a strange name!!

From now on, I'll call myself Touya & Tobina!

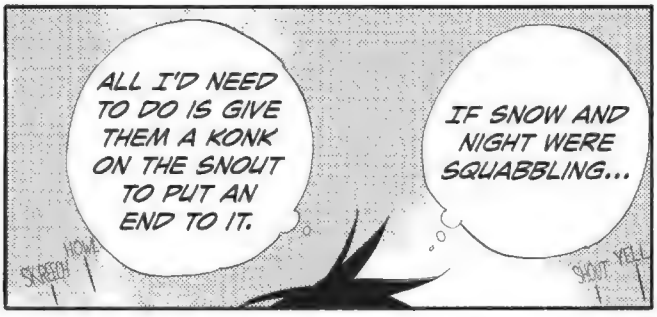
But that's kind of awkward. And it looks kind of... you know...




OH...
THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE SNOW.
IT'S A SNOW CLOUD.
IT'S BEEN A MONTH NOW.
HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING ...?
NIGHT?

IRK
WHAT WAS THAT?!
Huh?
YOUR TONE SOUNDS HOSTILE...
YOU SLY FOX...

DON'T MAKE FUN OF CREW-CUTS!!
YOUR MASTER HAS A CREW-CUT! IN THIS DAY AND AGE?! IS HE TRYING TO MAKE SOME KIND OF POINT?!
DON'T INSULT MIKA LIKE THAT!
WHAT IS IT WITH YOUR HAIR?! DO YOU WANT IT LONG OR SHORT?! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
I WOULD SO LOVE TO WHACK THEM...
IRK
IRK

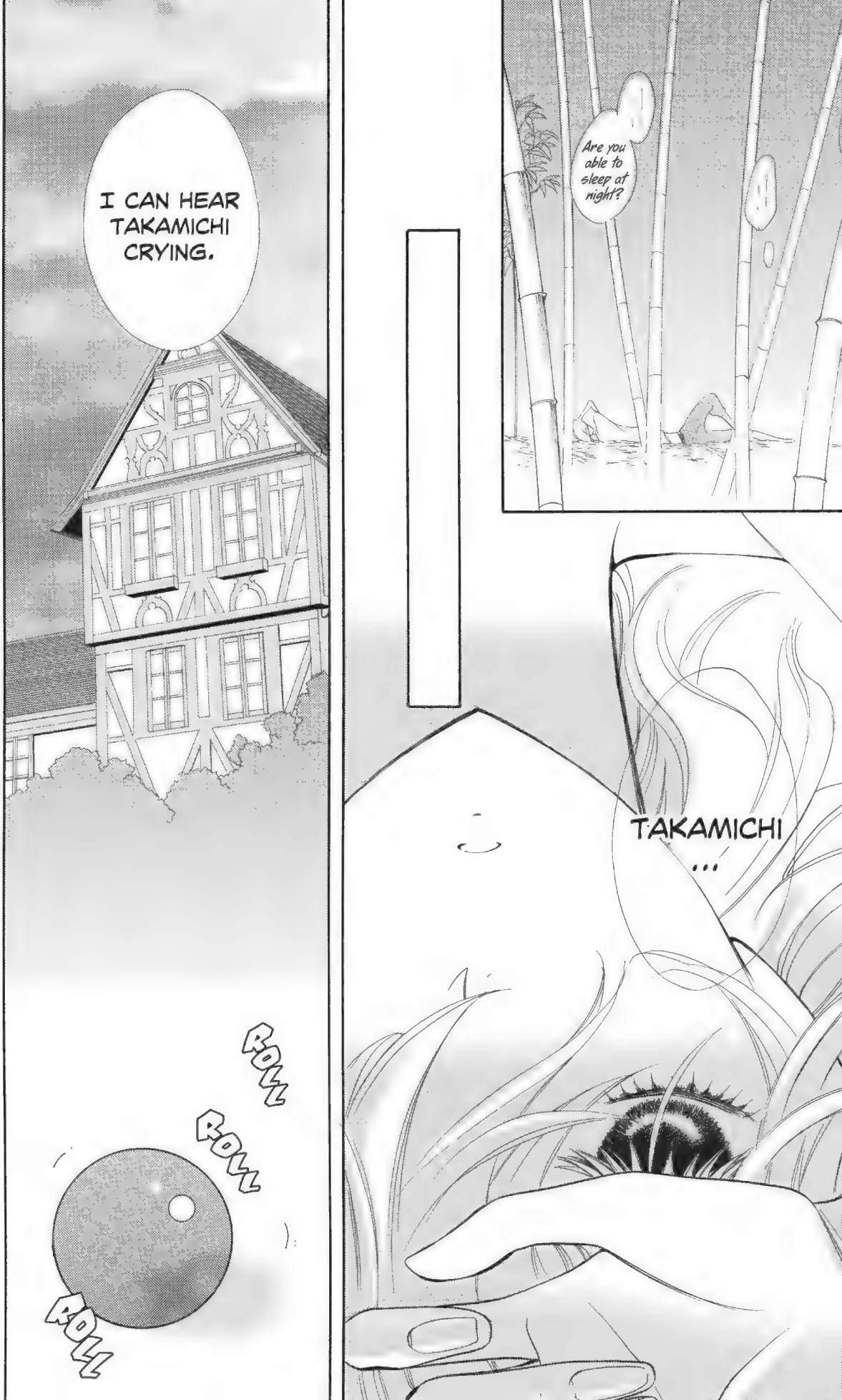

ALL I'D NEED TO DO IS GIVE THEM A KONK ON THE SNOUT TO PUT AN END TO IT.
IF SNOW AND NIGHT WERE SQUABBLING...
SHOUT YELL

SNOW?

PUSH
CHMP
SH
TUMP
NK
WIP
TUP

WOULD YOU CUT THAT OUT?!
HEY!
...EVERY TIME WE GO HUNTING!
YOU KEEP SWINGING THAT HEAVY CHAIN IN MY DIRECTION ...
KLNG
WHAT IF IT HITS M-
!

IF IT HITS YOU...
...YOU DIE. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
WHAT I NEED IS A JIU JIU.
IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN A LAPDOG...
...GO BACK TO MOMMY.


I CAN HEAR TAKAMICHI CRYING.
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
Are you able to sleep at night?
TAKAMICHI
...

ooo
ROLL
tip
ROLL
ROLL
THAT...
...WOULD BE NICE.
I CAN TAKE A BATH ON MY OWN!
FSS
SH
DON'T WANT TO!
...THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO WIN ME OVER!
OWWOO...
BUT I'M WARNING YOU IN ADVANCE ...

HIS HAIR HAS GROWN.
...
YOU DON'T LIKE ME?
NO. I DON'T LIKE YOU.
FWAF
FWAF
OHH...
PLEASE BRUSH MY TAIL GENTLY.
SIGH
I WANT A RIBBON.
WHAT DO I NEED TO CHANGE...?
Like I said ...
...a rib-bo-
I MEAN...

What's wrong with a crew-cut?

Seijuro naturally ended up with bi-colored hair after I initially established his character as a partially fledged swan.

But when I was drawing him, I noticed... Hey, this isn't a crew-cut after all!! He ended up looking like Takamichi's doctor, Gen. (Although Gen actually has white hair.)

The reason his hair is growing out now isn't because he changed his mind about liking crew-cuts! It's just because he's so busy with Night that he doesn't have time to get a haircut!

After all, **personally**, I love crew-cuts.♡

Why does Ripple like the color white so much?

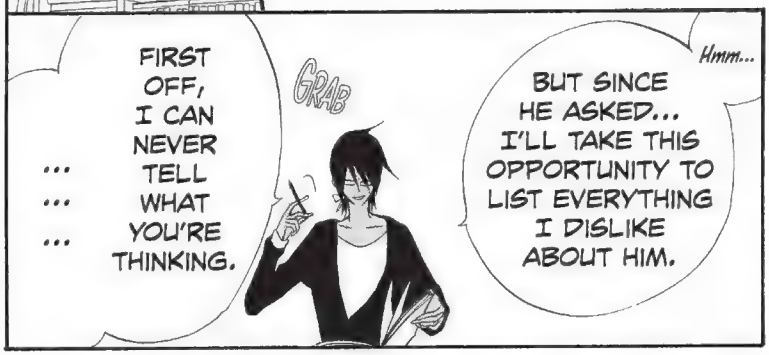
Gunma Prefecture: Myoya

Okay, I'm going to keep answering your questions (from time to time).

As a member of the Shiratori* clan, Ripple has always wanted to be white. But since that will never happen...she at least wants her progeny to be white. I haven't written anything about it yet, but Seijuro's elder brother Kankuro, the family head of the Shiratori clan, has an albino Jiu Jiu named Tsunami. And that's why she's so hung up on the color white.

Oh, wow. I've written such a proper answer.

*WHITE BIRD


FIRST OFF, I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
...
...
...
GRAB
Hmm...
BUT SINCE HE ASKED... I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LIST EVERYTHING I DISLIKE ABOUT HIM.

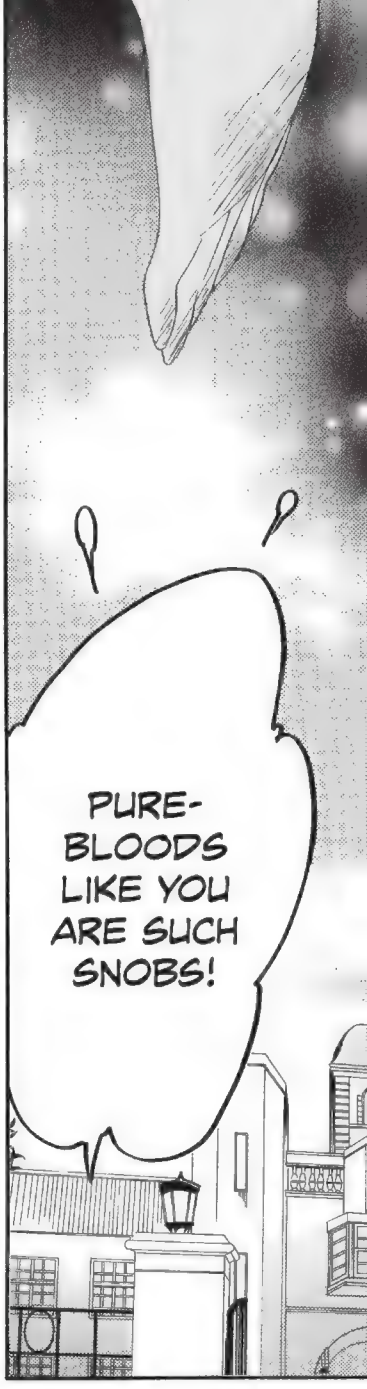
IF HE WASN'T MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S FIANCÉ, I WOULD...
...THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SEIJURO IS HER FIANCÉ!
SHE PROMISED SHE'LL ALWAYS WANT US BY HER SIDE...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
HE'S A GOOD GUY.

BUT...
BUT I...
I WANT TO SEE...
...WANT TO BE BY MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S SIDE MORE THAN ANYONE!
...MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ALL THE TIME! I WANT TO SEE HER RIGHT NOW!

RIPPLE'S HERE?!
NOT AS DELUSIONAL AS YOU, MS. CROW.
WELL, MAYBE YOU MIXED BLOODS ARE DELUSIONAL?!
OH—?!
Morning.
Morning.

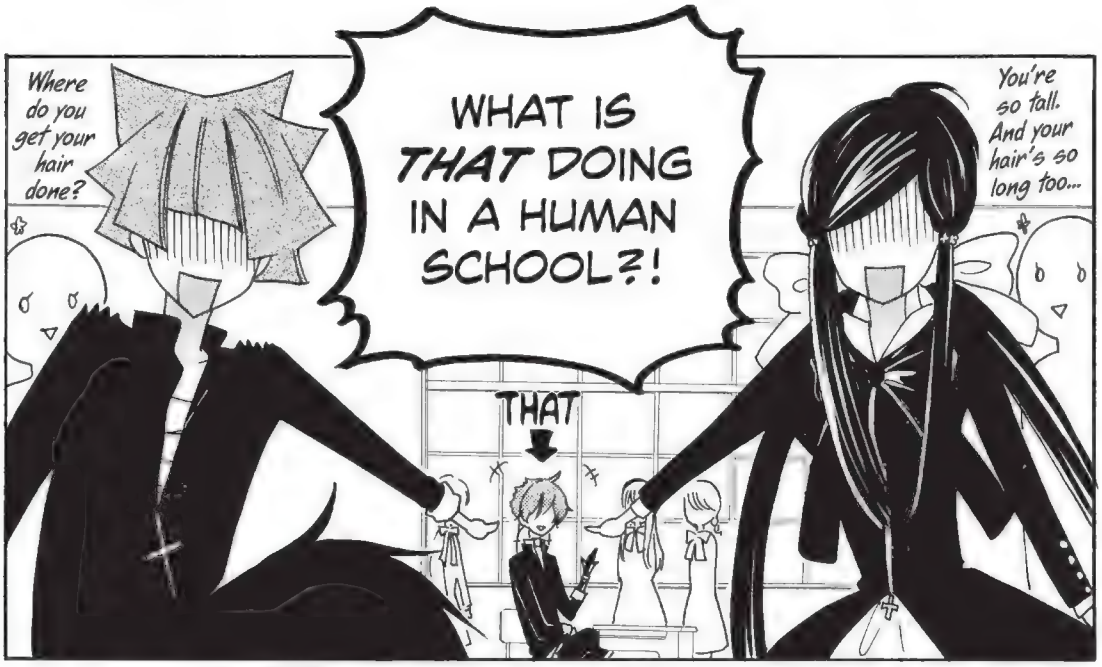
WE'RE HERE.
!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE THIS POINTLESS DISCUSSION?

IT'S NOT POINTLESS!!


PURE-BLOODS LIKE YOU ARE SUCH SNOBS!

A... VAMPIRE ?!
WAHLZANDTS MELT
VAMPIRE PRINCE
WHAT'S A GUY LIKE THAT DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!

A CROW AND A SLY SICKLE-FOX.
HA!
ARE THOSE THE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE PUPS I HEARD ABOUT?
OH
THEY'RE SUBS, YES.
DUCK
Don't touch me.
MAYBE SO.
...
A SLY FOX? I BETTER BE CAREFUL THEN 'CAUSE I'M SO FLY!
FRIENDLY ?!
GOOD MORNING, TAKAMICHI.
MORNING.
HACHIOJI, IT'S MERU THE VAMPIRE.
RABBLE
RABBLE
Good morning. Who are they?
IRK
IRK
II - A
HUH?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
THEY KNOW!!
TP TP TP


WHAT IS THAT DOING IN A HUMAN SCHOOL?!
Where do you get your hair done?
You're so tall. And your hair's so long too...
THAT

Classmate...?
MERU IS MY CLASSMATE.
...AND THE GIRL WHO IS HIS FATE.
THE PRINCE...
THAT'S A VAMPIRE!

What did you eat for breakfast?
Do you believe in horoscopes?
What do you do on the weekends?
Are you a sea person? Or a mountain person?
EEK
M-Mistress Takamichi!!
When's your birthday?
HMPH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
...curious.
Very...
YOU'LL FIT INTO THIS CLASS SOON TOO.
DON'T WORRY.
Or the soba noodle type?
Are you an udon noodle kind of guy?
WHAT?
We've got all sorts of questions for you!

THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ROOFTOP...
MISS CROW...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO REVEAL WHAT MY FAVORITE FOOD WAS TO THEM TOO!
Kittens!
HOW COULD SHE ABANDON US TO THAT MOB?!
So mean!
I SENSE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S PRESENCE ...
...BEHIND THOSE DOORS.
...!!
Don't touch me!

ALL DONE!
OH MY! MISTRESS TAKAMICHI IS HAVING AN AFFAIR... WITH A VAMPIRE?!
THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM ...!
WHAT A FORMAL AFFAIR THIS IS!!
LOOK AT THIS FANCY BED ON THE SCHOOL ROOF...!!

...IS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S SECRET.
SO THIS...
I KEEP TELLING YOU... THEIR FACES TOTALLY LOOK MORE EVIL THAN THAT.

SNOW ...
NIGHT ...

KLAP
KLAP
AAAAAAH!!
They've turned into stars!!
PHEW.
NOW THAT WAS REFRESHING.
SMACK
HER FACE DOESN'T MATCH HER WORDS!!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
BRR
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED! ♡
BRR
Hey! Come back here!
THUMP
SHOOR SHOOR
THUMP
M-M-MISTRESS TAKAMICHI MUST BE REALLY STRESSED OUT!!
WHAP
Take this! And that!
TNK TNK TNK TNK
WHACK
IF SHE EVER PUNCHED ME LIKE THAT, IT WOULD KILL ME DEAD, I'M SURE OF IT!
ME TOO!
AH-HAH.
CONFERRING ABOUT HOW TO KILL ME, ARE YOU?

Boooom
I'LL HOLD HIM STILL!
WHITE, YOU DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW!
GOTCHA, RIPPLE!
Hmm...
I'M PLAYING WITH YOU.
YOU OUGHT TO FEEL HONORED.

RIPPLE!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MERU!
WHITE!
WHAP
YOU CUT IT OUT TOO, MERU.
YOU DO ANYTHING TO HARM THEM AND I'LL KILL YOU.
!
WE WERE ONLY PLAYING.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO THREATEN HIM...
...WHY NOT JUST KILL HIM NOW AND GET IT OVER WITH?
THIS IS A VAMPIRE! A CLASS-A DANGEROUS SPECIES, YOU KNOW!
THAT'S SO DUMB...

WHETHER YOU'RE A VAMPIRE OR A PUREBLOOD OR A HALF BLOOD...
YOU'RE ...
...ALL THE SAME NOW. YOU'RE ALL MY CLASSMATES.

WE ARE NOT THE SAME!
IF WE...
...WEREN'T ABLE TO PROTECT YOU FOR SOME REASON, OR IF WE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE...
WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US?!
I WANT...

I WANT TO GO BACK TO MASTER SEIJURO!!
I WANT ...
...TO RETURN TO MIKA!
BUT THANKS TO THIS STUPID VAMPIRE ...
...THE LIVES OF EVERYONE AT THIS SCHOOL...
...AND OUR SERVICE TO OUR MASTERS ...
...ARE ALL ON THE LINE!
HEY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THERE THERE. NO NEED TO BE SO PESSIMISTIC.
What's the matter?!
YAY!
YAY!
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO AGGRIEVE TAKAMICHI.
YAY!
YAY!

I'M HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH HER, CAN'T YOU SEE?
T-TMP
T-TMP
T-TMP
TAKAMICHI AND I WERE JUST TESTING OUR LOVE.
OH, MERU! WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION JUST NOW?
Really? That's so, so... lecherous!!

I WANT TO RETURN TO MIKA!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO MASTER SEIJURO!!
RIPPLE...
...ARE JUST LIKE ME.
...AND WHITE...
OH!
HLOOP

I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW ANXIOUS YOU FELT HERE...
...
I DON'T FEEL ANXIOUS.
IT'S JUST THAT MASTER SEIJURO...
...ISN'T VERY GOOD AT EXPRESSING HIMSELF.
I'M WORRIED NIGHT WON'T UNDERSTAND HIM.
WELL, I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED ABOUT MIKA.
HE CAN BE SO COLD SOMETIMES.
MIKA IS A WALKING BUNDLE OF NERVES...
MY SEIJURO IS STONE-FACED AND SILENT TOO.
I'm worried.
My...

THOSE TWO ARE LUCKY.
THEIR SERVANTS ARE SO DEVOTED TO THEM.
Ha.

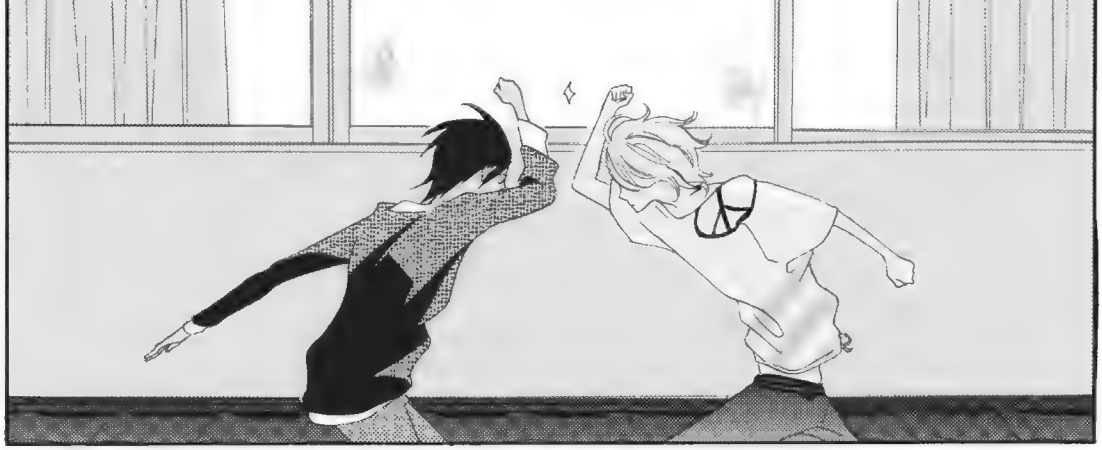
ABOUT SNOW...
...AND NIGHT.

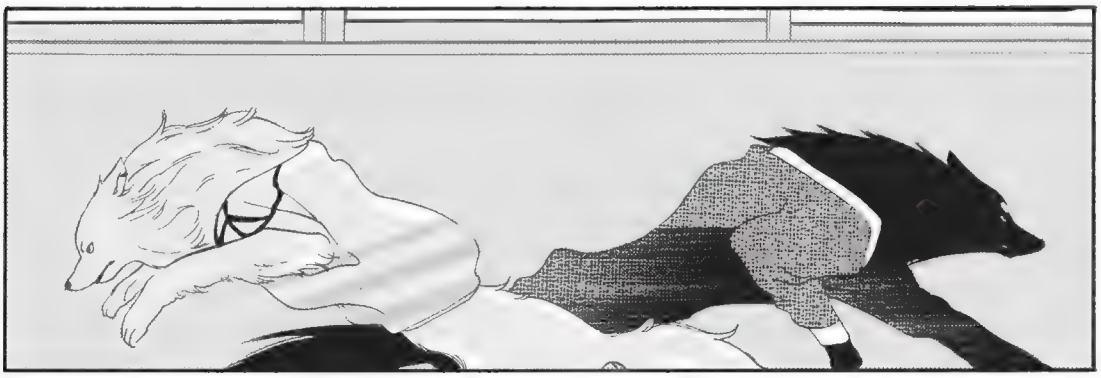
I'M SORRY...
YOU MUST BE WORRIED TOO.

NO.
I BELIEVE IN THEM. I KNOW...
...THEY CAN HANDLE THIS.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE PROBABLY WORRIED- ABOUT ME.
LIKE YOU TWO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

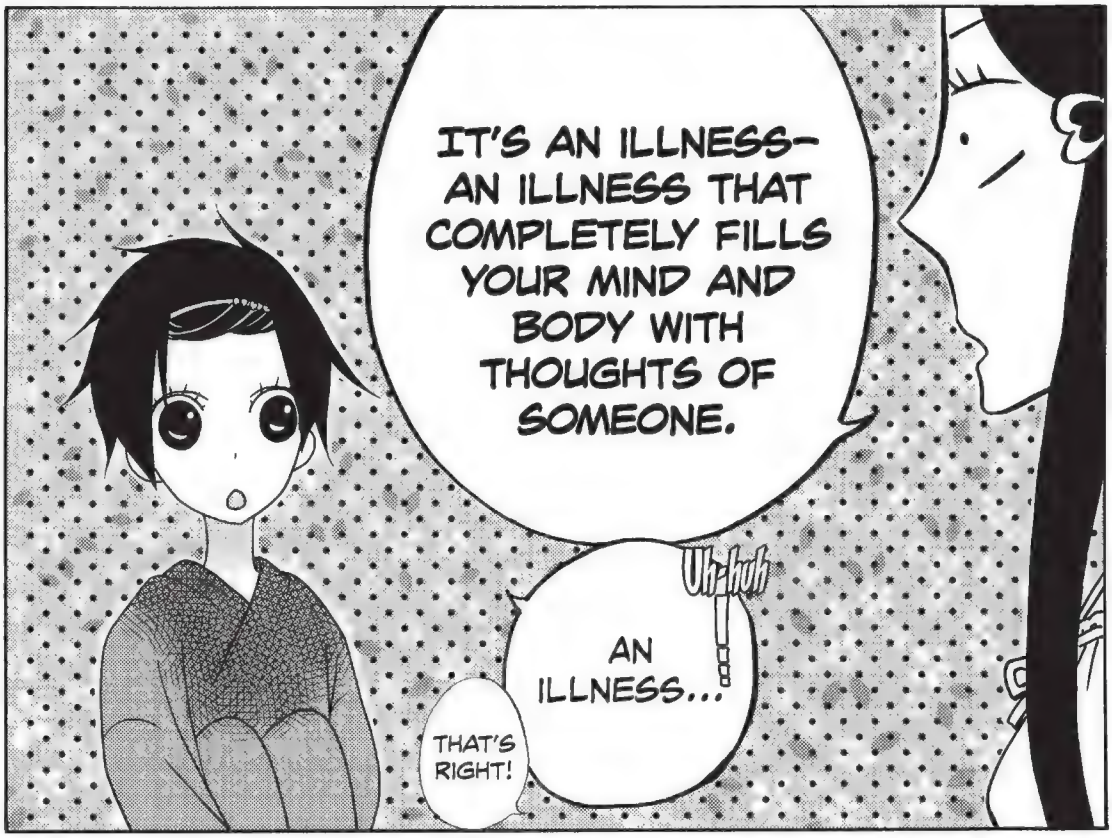


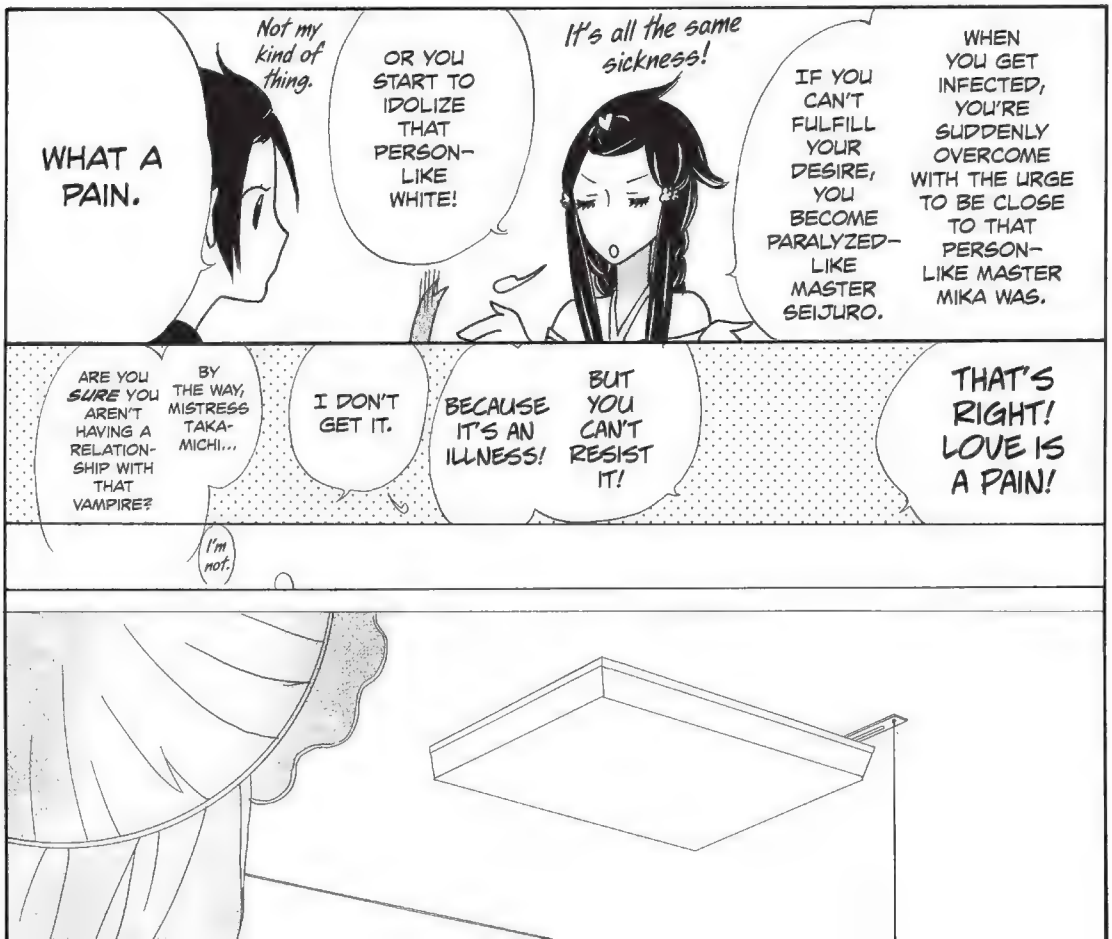


!!
THAT MEANS YOU'RE LONELY, RIGHT?
BUT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
YOU MADE THOSE PLUSH TOYS, SO...

BESIDES...
MIKA IS BEAUTIFUL TOO...
BEAUTIFUL?!
HEARING YOU SAY THAT WITH THAT FACE...
You have the same voice too.
White... Would you please turn into your animal form?
BUT I CAN'T TALK UNLESS I'M IN HUMAN FORM!
I FEEL LONELY.
I'M NOT LONELY!
Those plush toys are just... punching bags.
Sigh...
Mika...
WHEN MIKA KISSED ME...
...AND HIS FACE WAS UP CLOSE TO MINE...
I DIDN'T THINK SO. NOT ONE BIT.
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SEDUCED HIM?!
ARGH! JUST REMEMBERING IT ANNOYS ME...
HELL NO!
RRGH
RRGH
What's up with him anyway?
AT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING THE OTHER DAY.
Sounds like you didn't hold back!
W-W-W-What?!
KISSED YOU?! WHEN?!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST WEIRD, BUT NOW I PITY YOU.
DON'T THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL JUST BECAUSE HE GAVE YOU ONE LITTLE KISS!
I DON'T THINK I'M SPECIAL!
PUFF
SEDUCING WOMEN JUST COMES NATURAL TO MIKA.
YOU BELONG TO MASTER SEIJURO, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
What's wrong with you two?
YOU MEAN... ABOUT HOW MUCH HE RESENTS ME?!
What?!
SHE FORCED IT OUT OF HIM.
I ASKED MASTER SEIJURO ABOUT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TEN YEARS AGO!
I asked all kinds of things!!
And how I pushed him in the river?
OH, BUT MAYBE MASTER MIKA STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER HIS FEELINGS FOR MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
Huh?!
HE HAS FEELINGS FOR HER?!
MIS-TRESS TAKA-MICHI ...
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... HAVE YOU EVER FALLEN IN LOVE?
WHAT'S LOVE?


IT'S AN ILLNESS— AN ILLNESS THAT COMPLETELY FILLS YOUR MIND AND BODY WITH THOUGHTS OF SOMEONE.
Uh-huh
AN ILLNESS...
THAT'S RIGHT!


WHAT A PAIN.
Not my kind of thing.
OR YOU START TO IDOLIZE THAT PERSON— LIKE WHITE!
It's all the same sickness!
IF YOU CAN'T FULFILL YOUR DESIRE, YOU BECOME PARALYZED— LIKE MASTER SEIJURO.
WHEN YOU GET INFECTED, YOU'RE SUDDENLY OVERCOME WITH THE URGE TO BE CLOSE TO THAT PERSON— LIKE MASTER MIKA WAS.
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T HAVING A RELATION-SHIP WITH THAT VAMPIRE?
BY THE WAY, MISTRESS TAKA-MICHI...
I'm not.
I DON'T GET IT.
BECAUSE IT'S AN ILLNESS!
BUT YOU CAN'T RESIST IT!
THAT'S RIGHT! LOVE IS A PAIN!

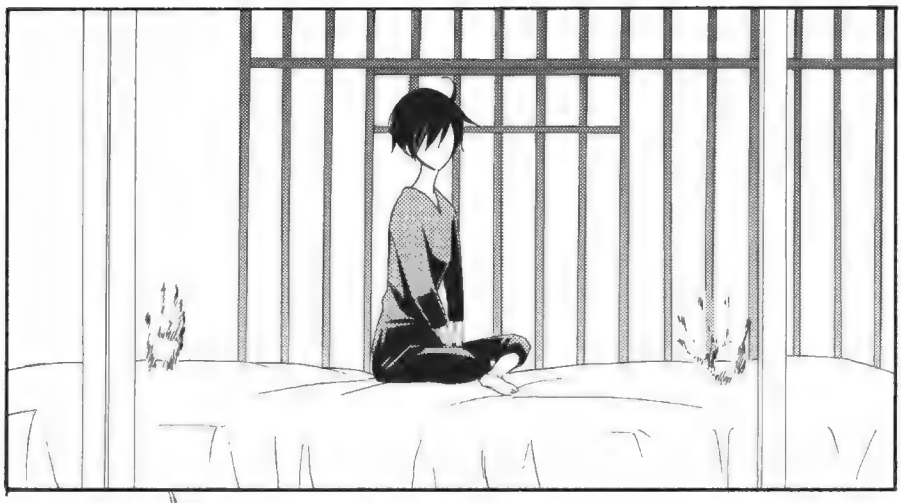
I'M EXHAUSTED ...
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
STAY!
!

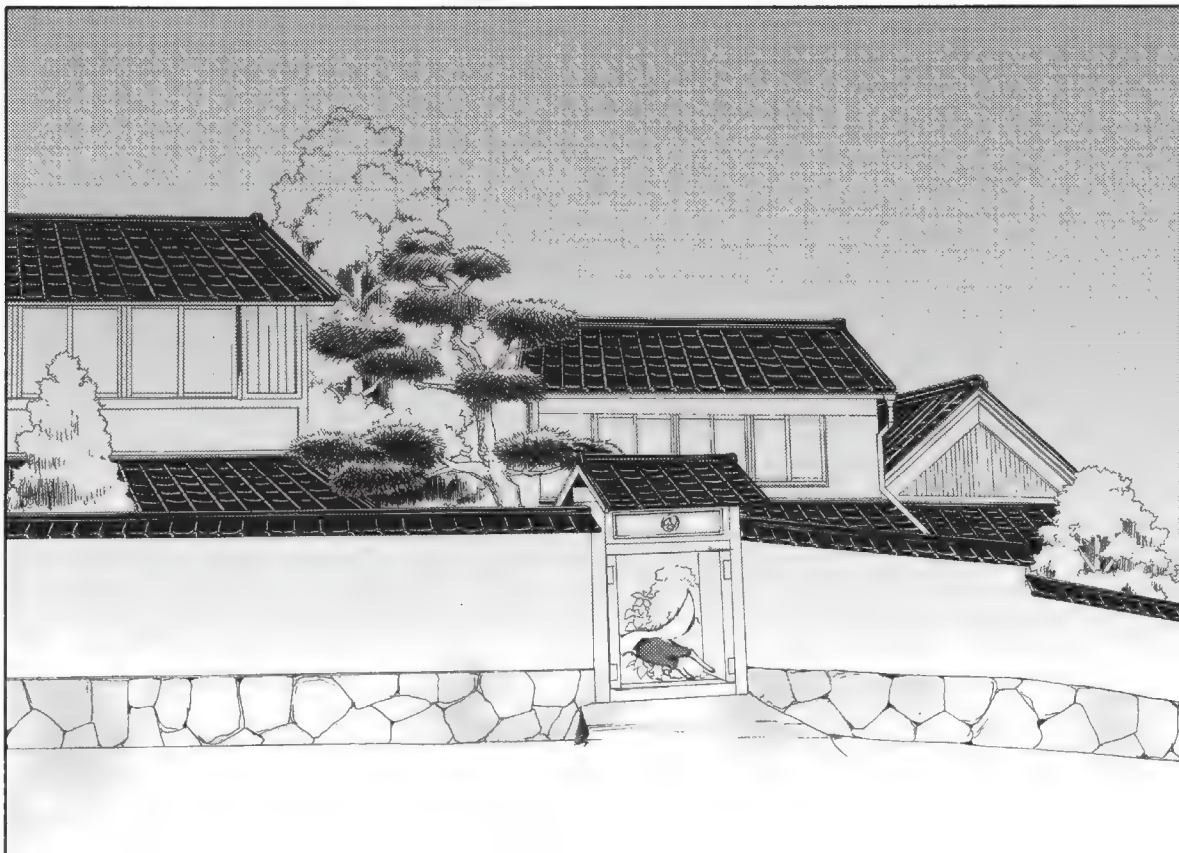
Mistress Takamichi looked beautiful as she did the two-step.
Played Frisbee with Mistress Takamichi today. The way she throws the Frisbee is so
Snow always hugs Mistress Takamichi. I'm a bit—no, very—uncomfortable with it.
Mistress Takamichi! You need to resist
I thought an angel landed before me. But to my surprise, it was Mistress Takamichi!
Mistress Takamichi asked me, "What would happen if you got a sunburn?!" So I climbed onto the roof underneath the blazing midday sun to find out. But Mistress Takamichi didn't even notice.
My eyes meet Mistress Takamichi's a lot these days. I don't know what to do when you gaze at me like that!
I catch Mistress Takamichi smiling a lot lately. I think Snow's smile has softened too.
I felt really good this morning. Not surprising, since I dreamed about Mistress Takamichi! I want to spend more time with her...
Snow is always daydreaming and gazing up at the sky these days. When I ask h what the matter is he just laughs an won't tell m What
FLP
FLP
FWOMP
Night's Diary
...morning, noon and night...
THIS ISN'T A DIARY.
IT'S ALL ABOUT SNOW AND ME...
I want to be with Mistress Takamichi all the time.

...AN ILLNESS THAT COMPLETEY FILLS YOUR MIND AND BODY WITH THOUGHTS OF SOMEONE.
...
IT CAN'T BE...

IT CAN'T ...
... BE.

WALK 17: BEYOND LOVE?


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP



PLIP
DON'T SHOOT!
KLATR

TH
OK
HUFF
THOK
THOK
THOK
TH
OK
THOK
SORRY.
I'M SORRY, HAKU.

I'M SORRY I'M STILL ALIVE.
大学
MRMR
IT SCARES ME.
MRMR
WHAT A BIG DOG!
...
THIS WAY...

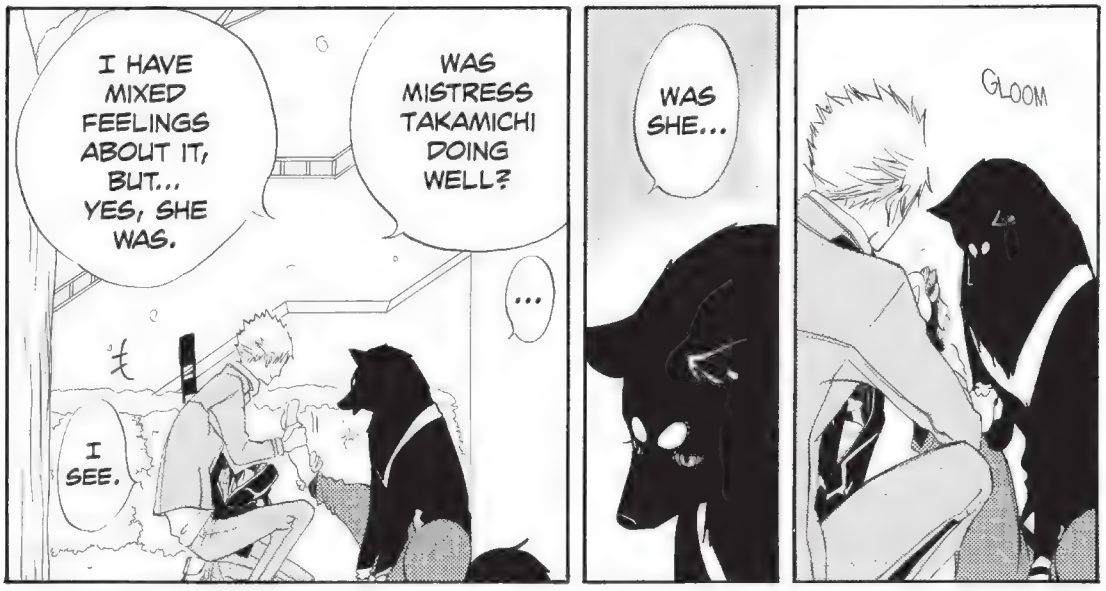
DID YOU GO VISIT HER?

FROM A DISTANCE...
I JUST WENT TO CHECK ON HER.

!
DON'T LOOK.
WE'RE BEING WATCHED.

I'M SURROUNDED BY UNFAMILIAR SCENTS...
THIS IS MEANT TO BE A TEST, YOU KNOW.
SO IT SHOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE...

THIS PRES-ENCE ...
...I FEEL IS...
ANYWAY, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REFRAIN...
...FROM DOING ANYTHING TO CALL ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.
SHFF


WAS SHE...
GLOOM
WAS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI DOING WELL?
...
I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT, BUT... YES, SHE WAS.
I SEE.

SHE SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
...
AND HOW WAS RIPPLE...?
SHE WAS GOOD. VERY GOOD.
I SEE... I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THAT TOO.
...
I DON'T DISLIKE YOU.
EX-CUSE ME, BUT...
IS THAT SO...?
... COULD YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS?

BUT...
YOU...
...ASKED ME IF I DID BEFORE, REMEMBER?
I DON'T DISLIKE YOU.

...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU HAVE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...
SEIJURO!

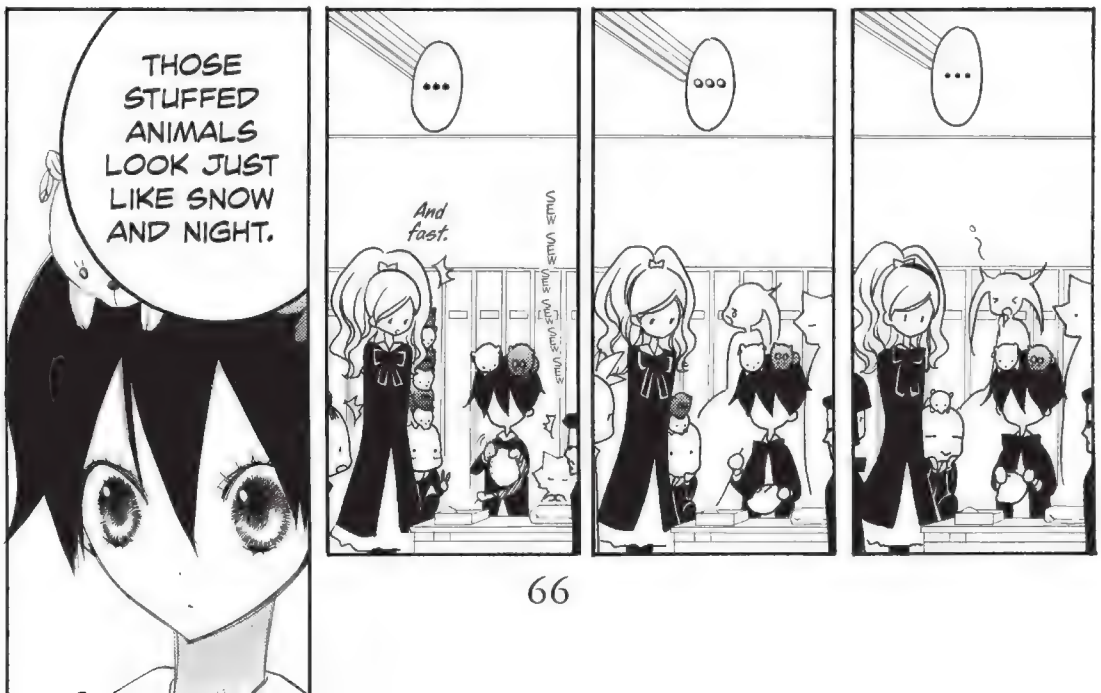
YOU'RE A FORMIDABLE RIVAL.
BUT ...
...YOU MAY ONLY CALL ME BY THAT NAME WHEN WE'RE ALONE.
OKAY, NIGHT...?
SKNIK
Hey...
Seijuro, this is...
This is cute!

...ARE "IN LOVE" WITH ME?
SNOW...
...AND NIGHT...
SNIP
I'VE MADE ANOTHER PAIR.
(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONOTONE)
AHH...

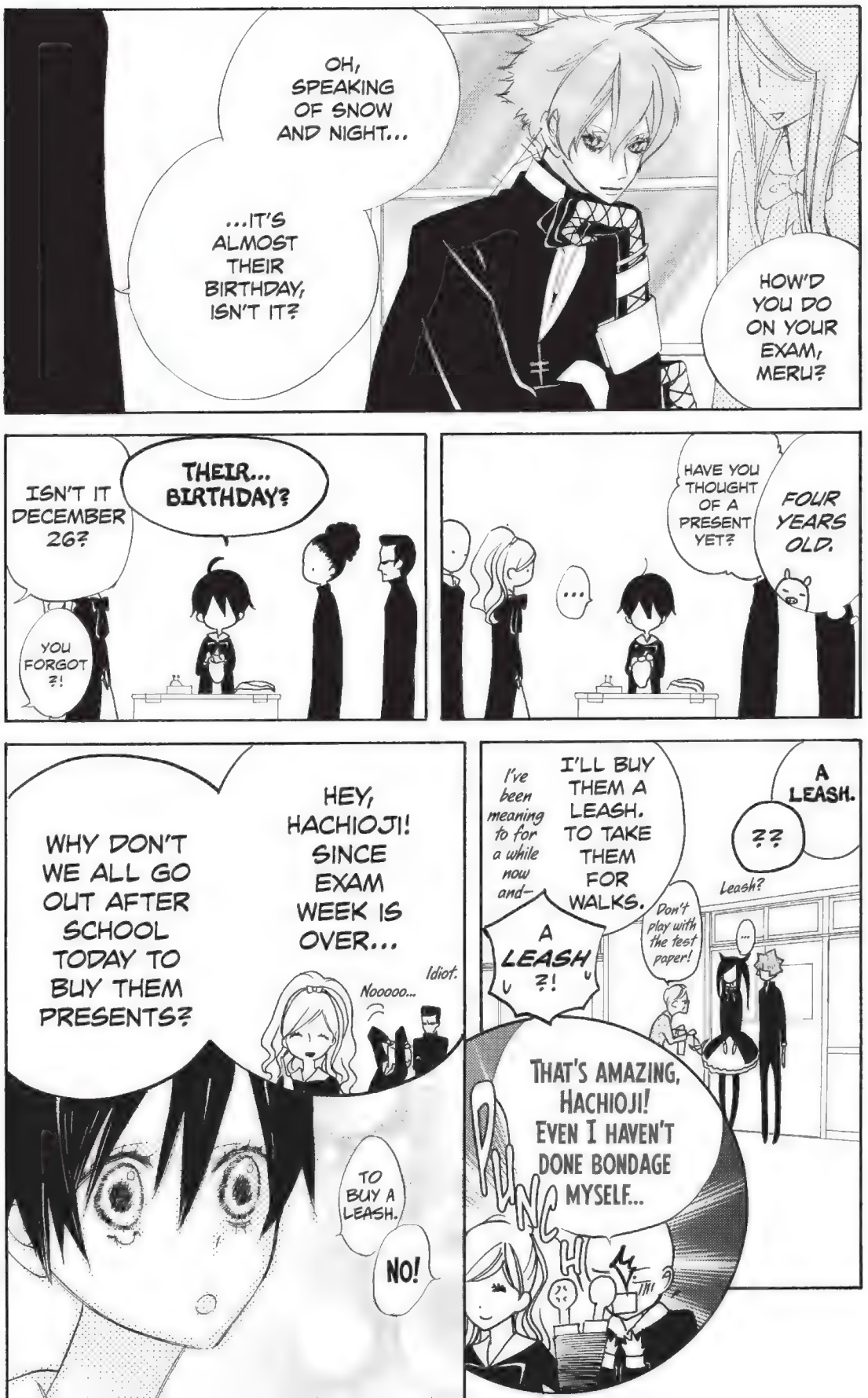
MISS HACHIOJI...
OOH, THOSE ARE ADORABLE...
SHWOOP
...LET'S NOT SEW DURING YOUR TEST, OKAY?
BUT...
...
SKRCH
SKRCH
SKRCH
YOU'VE SURE MADE A LOT OF...
...dog plush toys.
AND THIS WAS EXAM WEEK TOO...
ARE YOU GOING TO PASS?
KLANK
YOU'RE A REGULAR AT THE MAKEUP EXAMS, AREN'T YOU, HACHIOJI?
OH, WASHI...
Hachioji hasn't been in the makeup group lately...
Traitor...
Good luck, Taka!
REGULAR MAKEUP EXAM MEMBERS

USED TO BARELY GET PASSING GRADES.
Heh heh.
Oh!
I KNOW WHY!
YOU...
I'VE BEEN STUDYING WITH SNOW AND NIGHT SO MY GRADES HAVE GONE UP.
ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONO-TONE

YOU LIKE SEWING, DON'T YOU, HACHIOJI?
YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT IT.
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
AND SNOW IS JUST NATURALLY SMART. AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
NIGHT STUDIES HARD, SO HE KNOWS A LOT.
(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONOTONE)


THOSE STUFFED ANIMALS LOOK JUST LIKE SNOW AND NIGHT.
...
And fast.
SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH
...
...

...
FULL ...?
FWOP
ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONOTONE
NIGHT ALWAYS HAS THE RIBBON AND LACE COLLAR.
THIS ONE'S NIGHT AND THIS ONE'S SNOW.
Ha...
Call me...
...a profes-sional.
You made a dog tower !!
Ooh, Washi! Wow!
Ooooh...
YOU GET SO TALKATIVE WHEN THE SUBJECT IS SNOW AND NIGHT, HACHIOJI.
Huh ?
OH, I GET IT!
COOL
A professional architect! A pro at building dog towers, right, Washi?
ZLOOP
TELL ME YOUR SECRET, HACHIOJI!!
...BUT YOU STILL MANAGE TO GET PASSING GRADES?!
HOW COME YOUR HEAD'S FULL OF SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT...
Come here...
?
...for Monkeys.
Study Guide...

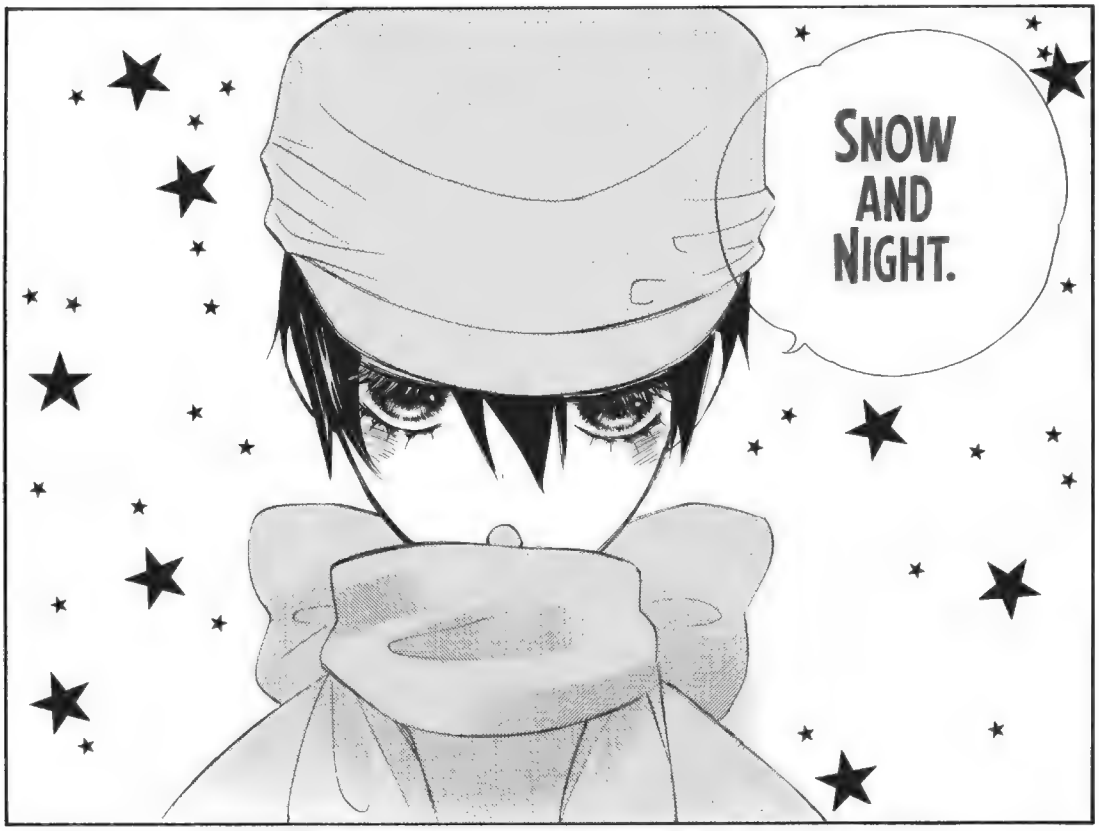

OH, SPEAKING OF SNOW AND NIGHT...
...IT'S ALMOST THEIR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?
HOW'D YOU DO ON YOUR EXAM, MERU?
ISN'T IT DECEMBER 26?
THEIR... BIRTHDAY?
YOU FORGOT?!
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A PRESENT YET?
FOUR YEARS OLD.
...
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO OUT AFTER SCHOOL TODAY TO BUY THEM PRESENTS?
HEY, HACHIOJI! SINCE EXAM WEEK IS OVER...
Idiot.
Nooooo...
TO BUY A LEASH.
NO!
I've been meaning to for a while now and-
I'LL BUY THEM A LEASH. TO TAKE THEM FOR WALKS.
A LEASH?!
A LEASH.
??
Leash?
Don't play with the test paper!
...
THAT'S AMAZING, HACHIOJI! EVEN I HAVEN'T DONE BONDAGE MYSELF...
PUNCH

YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
A LEASH ...
...
NO.
I BUY THEM CLOTHES EVERY NOW AND THEN... (ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH)
WHAT ABOUT CLOTHES?
HOW ABOUT THIS?
It's super lacy.
I'M GETTING THIS FOR NIGHT.
Lacy plus a ribbon!
I'll get them a Bible.
See? This one looks great.
OH. WASHI, THEY SELL HATS OVER THERE.
Why not?!
I'M NOT SURE HATS LOOK GOOD ON ME.
Of course they do.

THOSE TWO SEEM AWFULLY CLOSE...
YOU MEAN MIYAKANO AND WASHI?
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE A COUPLE.
A... COUPLE?

YEAH, WE'RE DATING EACH OTHER.
THAT MAKES US A COUPLE, RIGHT?
?
WHAT? MIYAKANO AND ME?!
...
STARE...
HEY, YOU TWO!
ARE YOU A COUPLE? WHAT'S A COUPLE?
(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH)
RIGHT... JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, TAKA-MICHI.
WHAT'S A COUPLE?
UH, WELL ...
WHAT ?
NO!
You idiot!
SO YOU DATE... IF YOU'RE... IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER? WHY?
(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH)
...
TWO PEOPLE WHO'RE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER, I GUESS?

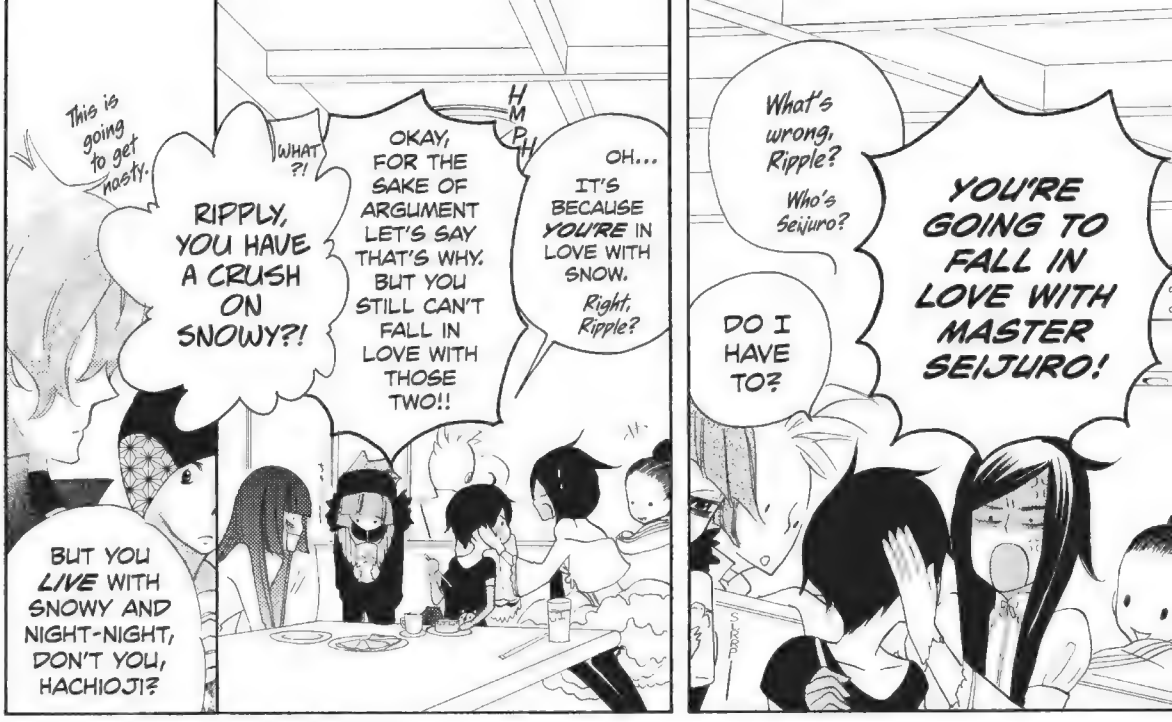
Y-You're awfully talkative today, Hachioji...
COULD IT BE...
...THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE YOURSELF, HACHIOJI?
?!
SEEMS SO.
WITH WHO?!
WHO ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH?!
Whh?


SNOW AND NIGHT.

Both of them?!
LET'S GET THEM NECKTIES FOR THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS THEN!!
C'mon, let's find some.
'CAUSE YOU WANNA "NECK" WITH THEM! OR "TIE THE KNOT"!
AOKI
WHAT? A NECKTIE?
OH MY! TAKA-MICHI...!
ARE YOU PULLING MY LEG?
PFFT

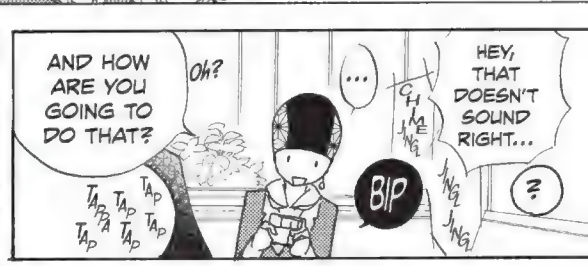
Pet Shop
RESTAURANT
Buy every tie they've got!

AND FOR THOSE TWO?!
YOU MADE A DECLARATION OF LOVE- WHILE I WAS BUSY SHOPPING?!
NO!!
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT...


This is going to get nasty.
WHAT?!
RIPPLY, YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON SNOWY?!
OKAY, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT LET'S SAY THAT'S WHY. BUT YOU STILL CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THOSE TWO!!
HMPH
OH... IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SNOW. Right, Ripple?
BUT YOU LIVE WITH SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT, DON'T YOU, HACHIOJI?
What's wrong, Ripple?
Who's Seijuro?
DO I HAVE TO?
YOU'RE GOING TO FALL IN LOVE WITH MASTER SEIJURO!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. SHE'S JUST CONFUSED.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO OPEN HER EYES, THAT'S ALL.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DUMPED YOU... HAVE A DRINK.
MERU...
OH, AND THEY TRIED TO SPY ON YOU WHEN YOU WERE TAKING A BATH THAT TIME.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT... THEY SNEAK INTO YOUR BED.
AND I BATHE THEM TOO.
I STILL SLEEP WITH THEM.
?!!
?!

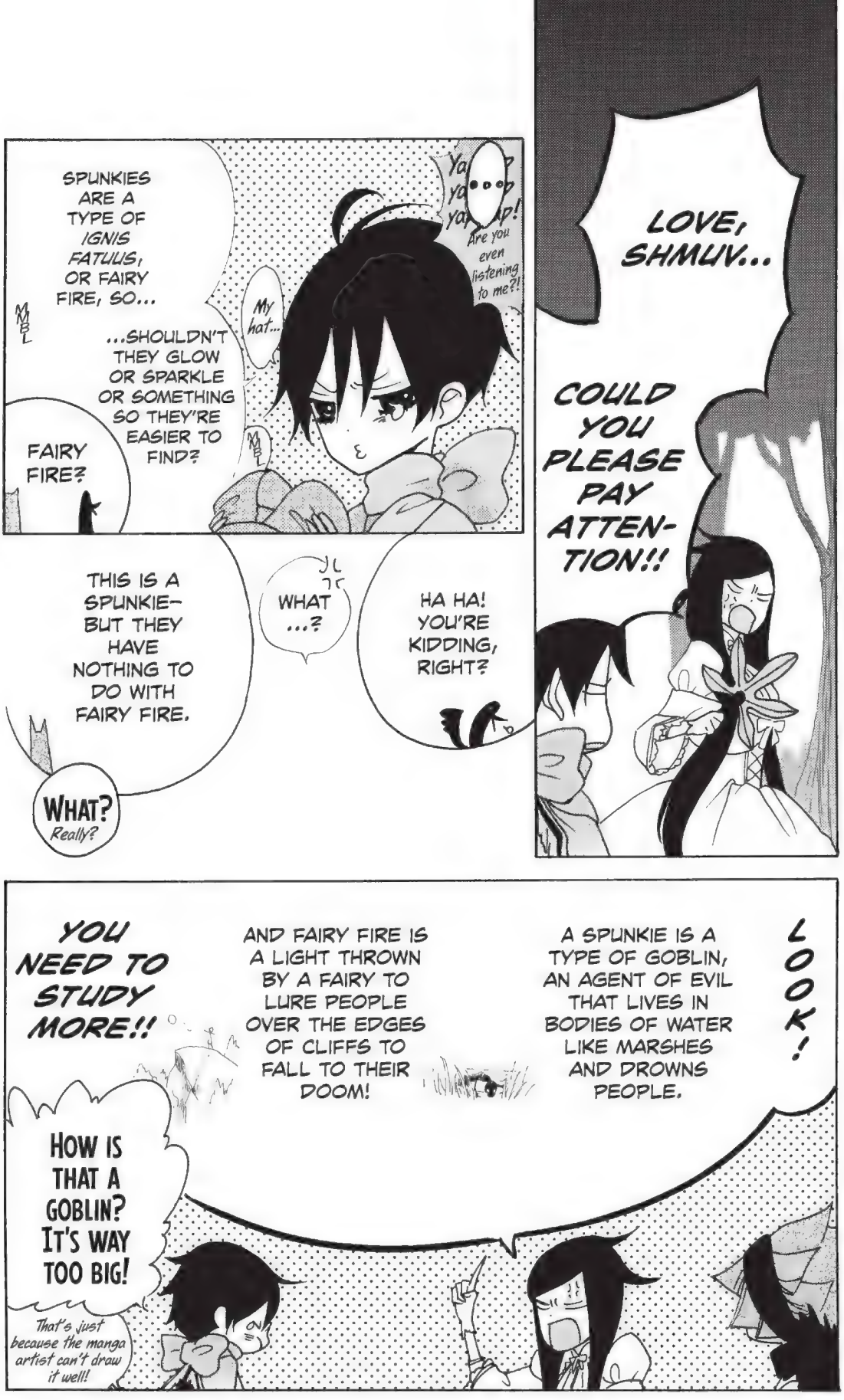
BIP
THAT'S A RELIEF.
SEND


AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?
Oh?
...
HEY, THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT...
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
BIP
CHIME
JINGLE
JINGLE
?

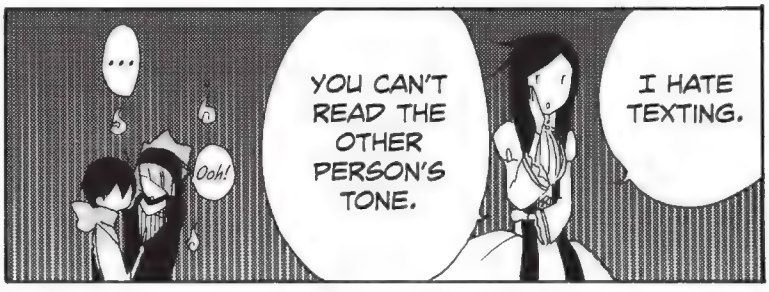
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T FORCE MYSELF UPON HER.

CHK
KLNK
WE'VE GOT WORK...
LET'S GO, SNOW, NI...
KLTR
NO TRESPASSING
DANGER!
THAT'S YOUR FIRST MISTAKE!
SO THIS IS LOVE...
BLUSH
Huh?
NO, NO, NO, NO!
If you're going to do something stupid, do it with Seijuro!

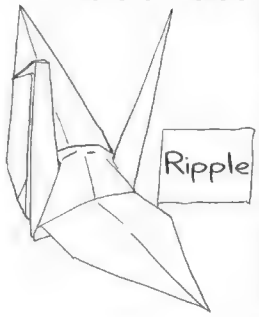
I'M SO JEALOUS OF YOUR ABILITY, WHITE. I WISH MY TWO JIU JIU HAD IT.
It's so bright!
FOX FIRE
DON'T SNOW AND NIGHT HAVE ANY SPECIAL ABILITIES OR WEAPONS?
THEIR NOSES, I GUESS ...
THEY HAVE GOOD NOSES!
They can shake hands too!
Uh-huh.
THEY'RE... DOGS.
Handshakes, eh?
SLASH
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI !!
RSTL


LOVE, SHMUV...
COULD YOU PLEASE PAY ATTEN-TION!!
Ya... ya... ya...p!
Are you even listening to me?!
My hat...
SPUNKIES ARE A TYPE OF IGNIS FATUUS, OR FAIRY FIRE, SO...
...SHOULDN'T THEY GLOW OR SPARKLE OR SOMETHING SO THEY'RE EASIER TO FIND?
FAIRY FIRE?
HA HA! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
WHAT ...?
THIS IS A SPUNKIE— BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FAIRY FIRE.
WHAT? Really?
LOOK!
A SPUNKIE IS A TYPE OF GOBLIN, AN AGENT OF EVIL THAT LIVES IN BODIES OF WATER LIKE MARSHES AND DROWNS PEOPLE.
AND FAIRY FIRE IS A LIGHT THROWN BY A FAIRY TO LURE PEOPLE OVER THE EDGES OF CLIFFS TO FALL TO THEIR DOOM!
YOU NEED TO STUDY MORE!!
HOW IS THAT A GOBLIN? IT'S WAY TOO BIG!
That's just because the manga artist can't draw it well!

IF OUR INTELLIGENCE TEAM IS MISTAKEN, WE'D BETTER ENLIGHTEN THEM.
GRAB
!
KLK KLK KLK KLK KLK
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT IT SAYS "FAIRY FIRE" IN MY TEXT!!
OH.
U call that fairy fire, u dope? Y don't u come down here and take a good look with yr own eyes! Sheesh! :-||
...
HERE.
!!
VRUUU
VRUUU
HERE YOU GO. ♡
...
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL SEND THIS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME... THIS CELL PHONE DOESN'T HAVE A CAMERA?



Exam results.



Is White a guy?
With the heart of a girl??
Is White a ♀ when in animal form?

Gifu Prefecture: Satomo

Yes, White is a boy. I referred to the trio of Mistress Takamichi, Ripple, and White as the "Girl Team" because White's behavior with Master Mika is so girlish.

There's nothing wrong with falling in love.

WHITE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE HE FOUND OUT MIKA KISSED TAKAMICHI.
... WHITE?
DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...
TEARS...
BUT HE STILL FOLLOWS TAKAMICHI AROUND.
No more silent treatment?

COME TO THINK OF IT...
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO WIN OVER MIKA'S HEART NOW THAT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAS DUMPED HIM AND BROKEN IT...
Heh heh...
White!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ...?
Mika is heartbroken? Over me?
... BROKEN IT?

MIKA STOPPED AT JUST A KISS? OUR MIKA?
Ha...
THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I SHOULDN'T CONSIDER MYSELF SPECIAL BECAUSE OF A LITTLE KISS, WHITE!

IN OTHER WORDS ...
...HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
BUT HE PISSED ME OFF WITH THAT KISS!
SO MIKA MADE SOMEBODY ELSE'S FEELINGS A PRIORITY OVER HIS OWN GRATIFICATION ...?

HA.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ...
...THE REAL DEAL BEFORE.
I'm glad it's dark.
!!!
WAAAGH!!
MIKAAA!
Poor Mika!!
THAT MEANS HE'S SERIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH HER!!
DON'T WORRY.
MASTER SEIJURO WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAPPY.
I don't get this at all...
PAT
RSTL
?!
WHOA!
SO THIS IS IT!
ISN'T THIS FAIRY FIRE?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY.
...OUR CLASS-MATE, WASHI!
HEY! YOU'RE ...
No outsiders allowed!!

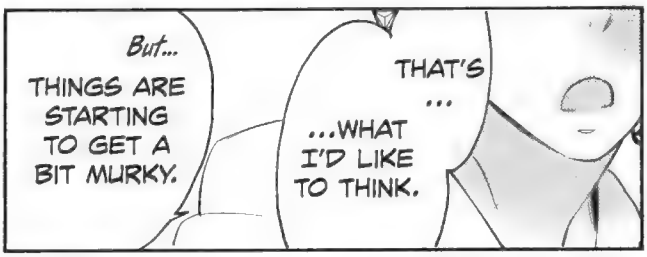
WHAT IS IT THEN?
I don't study, so I don't know much. ^_^
THIS IS A SPUNKIE. THEY'RE A TYPE OF GOBLIN AND AN AGENT OF EVIL! REMEMBER THAT!
HUH? HOW CAN THIS BE A GOBLIN? IT'S HUGE.
BECAUSE THE MANGA ARTIST IS STUPID!
HEY... HOLD ON A SECOND...
DOES THIS MEAN... WASHI IS A MEMBER OF THE INTELLI-GENCE TEAM?!
Ah!! WASHI AS IN... MASTER WASHI-TAKE?!
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI?!
I JUST FOUND OUT MYSELF.
THAT IS SO MESSED UP!!
BWA HA HA
AH HA HA
Nah. That would be my grandpa.
THIS MEANS MASTER WASHITAKE IS ON THE ANTI-JIU JIU TEAM, YOU KNOW!
WHA ...?!
?!

ARE YOU REALLY IN LOVE...
...WITH SNOW AND NIGHT?

I'M IN LOVE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "REALLY"?

SHOOT. NOW YOU KNOW I'VE ALLOWED A VAMPIRE TO ROAM FREE TOO!!
!!
So he knows w-we're permitting a vampire to roam free...?!
Gramps will kill me!!
EEK
EEK!

Don't worry. Meru is you-know-what...
SO LET'S BOTH KEEP THIS OUR LITTLE SECRET!
WHAT?


But... THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET A BIT MURKY.
THAT'S ...
...WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK.

I CAME HERE...
...TO CLARIFY SOMETHING WITH HACHIOJI.
?

LOVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER YOU'RE HUMAN OR NOT.
THAT'S RIGHT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT HUMAN?
HACHIOJI, DO YOU...
...PERMIT ME TO REPHRASE THE QUESTION.
HMM. THEN...
We love you, Mistress Takamichi!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
...WANT TO MAKE LOVE...
...WITH SNOW AND NIGHT?

...WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH...
...SNOW AND NIGHT?
DO YOU MEAN DO I...
Mistress Takamichi!! Please calm down!!
You mustn't commit murder!!
WHY DID SHE PUT IT THAT WAY?! EVEN MORE BLUNTLY!!
Oh my. Am I hearing things?
I was trying to embarrass her...
She's the heroine, isn't she?
I CAN'T IMAGINE HAVING SEX WITH SNOW AND NIGHT...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAN'T IMAGINE HAVING SEX AT ALL!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE IT!!
WHOA!
NOW SHE'S STARTING TO PICTURE IT!
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP REPEATING THAT WORD INSIDE A SHOJO MANGA?!
NAH.
JUST BE REALISTIC.
SNOW AND NIGHT AREN'T HUMAN...

YOU'RE NO ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL EITHER, HACHIOJI...
SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH SNOW AND NIGHT FROM NOW ON?
THINK IT THROUGH. VERY CAREFULLY.
MASTER MIKA!
PLEASE STOP TRAINING SO RIGOROUSLY!
HIS WOUND KEEPS REOPENING!

...
JUST DO YOUR JOB.
BRR...
...
FINE. THEN HOW ABOUT...
...YOU JUST DIE?
...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

JNGL
BUT...
...IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE...
...WAIT UNTIL AFTER I BEAT YOU.

JUST A LITTLE MORE...
...AND I HAVE A FEELING... I'LL CATCH SOMETHING ...
A MAGIC SEAL?
SKRRF
...
...
YOU'RE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE AGAIN.
JUST ...
...A LITTLE MORE...

BRR
WHAP
SWSH
MD
RSTL
RSTL

HUF
HUF
HUF
HAAA...
WHAT...
...WAS THAT?

...
TAKA-MICHI.
TAKA-MICHI.
I'M ...
Ugh... Ahh...
... FINALLY ...
UNI...
Aah...
Stop...

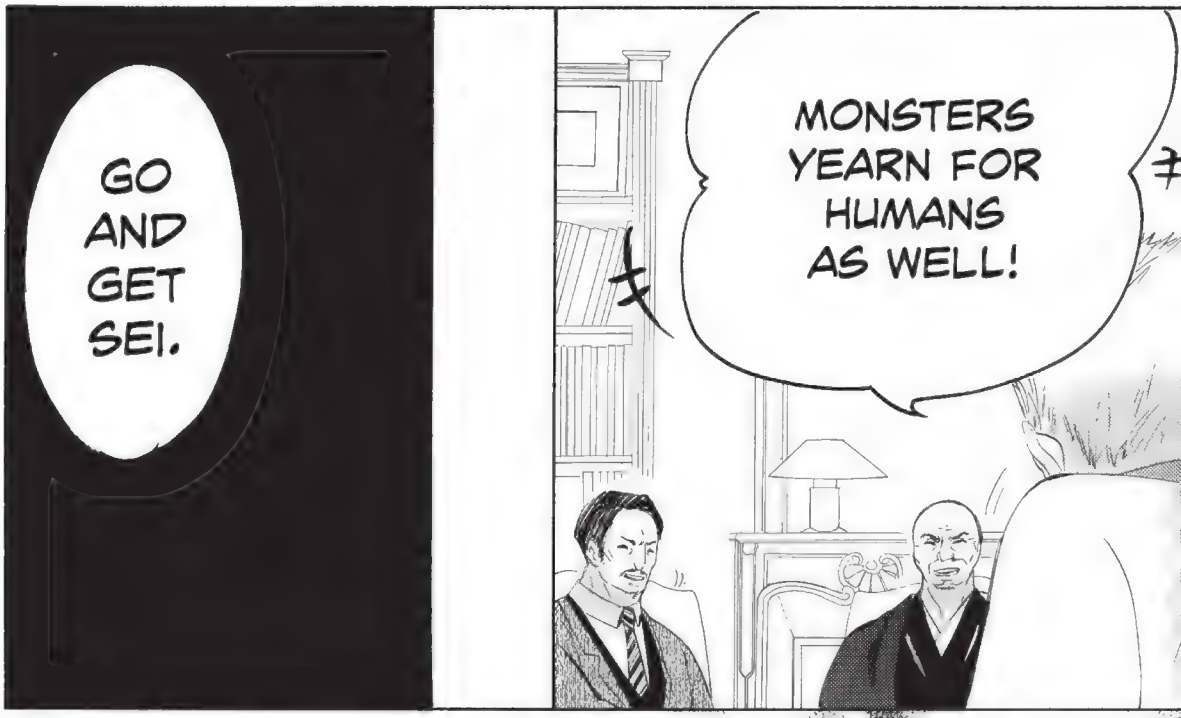
...
UNH
...

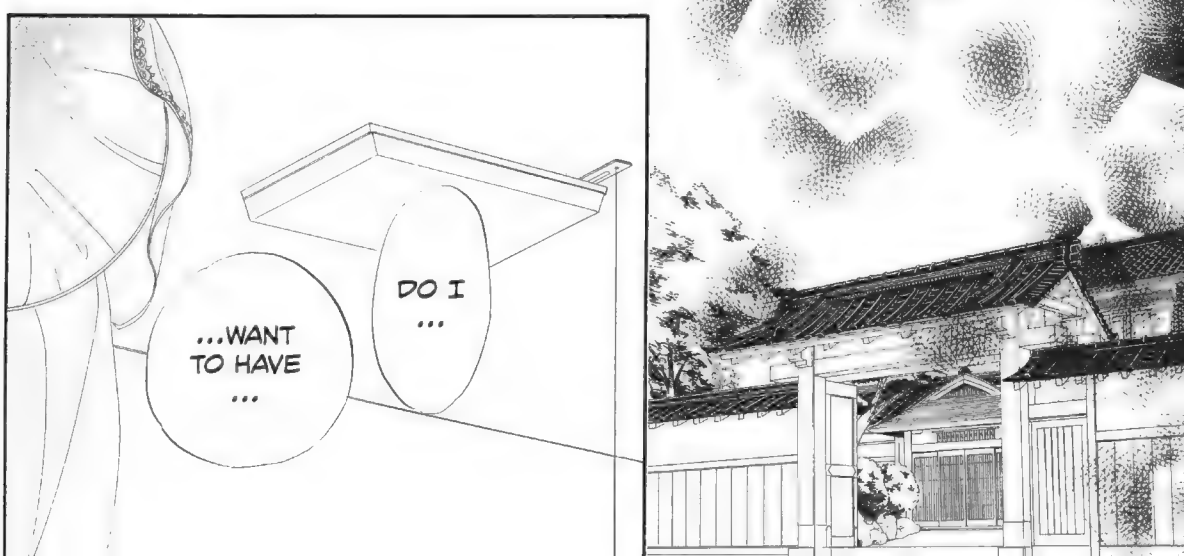
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY ...
... WHITE.

HA HA ...
THAT TICKLES.
YOU WANT A DEFINITIVE REASON...
...TO GET RID OF ALL THE JIU JIU?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THERE WAS NO HURRY...
...BECAUSE HACHIOJI WILL BECOME YOURS SOONER OR LATER...
...
KANKURO.
THEY PROBABLY FOUND OUT...
...THAT I WAS ANTI-JIU JIU TOO.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
TSUNAMI ...
MASTER KANKURO?
THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED— FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.
ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.
FWAD

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT BEFORE!
ALSO... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'VE NOTICED FROM ALL MY SPYING...


GO AND GET SEI.
MONSTERS YEARN FOR HUMANS AS WELL!


...WANT TO HAVE ...
DO I ...

This is kind of out of the blue, but...I wish they had more TV shows about ghosts.
I love ghost stories!
I haven't had much experience with the supernatural myself, and I'm a scaredy-cat, but...
I still love a good ghost story!

One of my assistants, Kikitsu, has suddenly developed the ability to sense ghostly presences.

Another day, I told Nana about it.

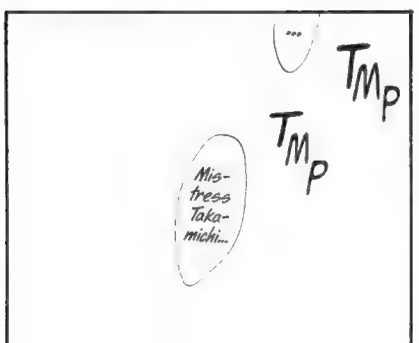
Don't say that!!
If there really were such a thing as ghosts, wouldn't the atmosphere be swarming with them?!
Hey...
Apparently they're right there.
Weird, huh?

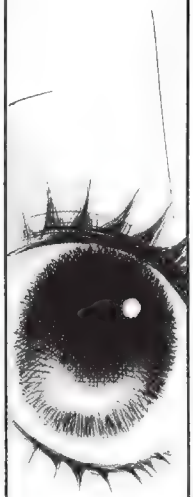
Ghosts flying off into outer space

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS WHAT MASTER WASHITAKE ASKED YOU JUST NOW.
THAT'S SOMETHING FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT LATER.
WASHITAKE'S GRANDSON.
Yep.
I've always been here.
White! You're here!

UH...
THAT'S ...

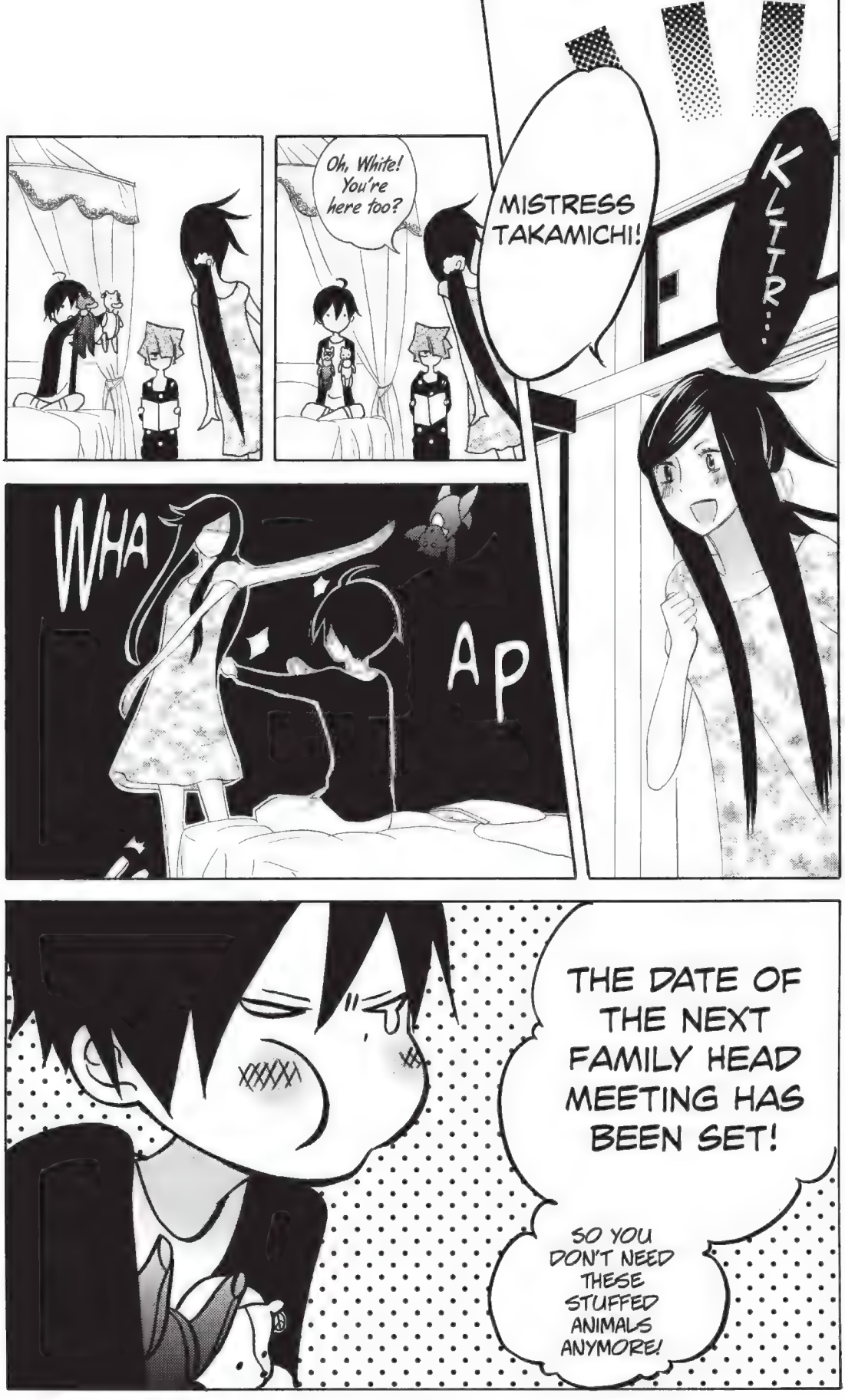
YOUR SEWING SKILLS KEEP IMPROVING ...
WOW ...


Mistress Takamichi...
TMP
TMP
...

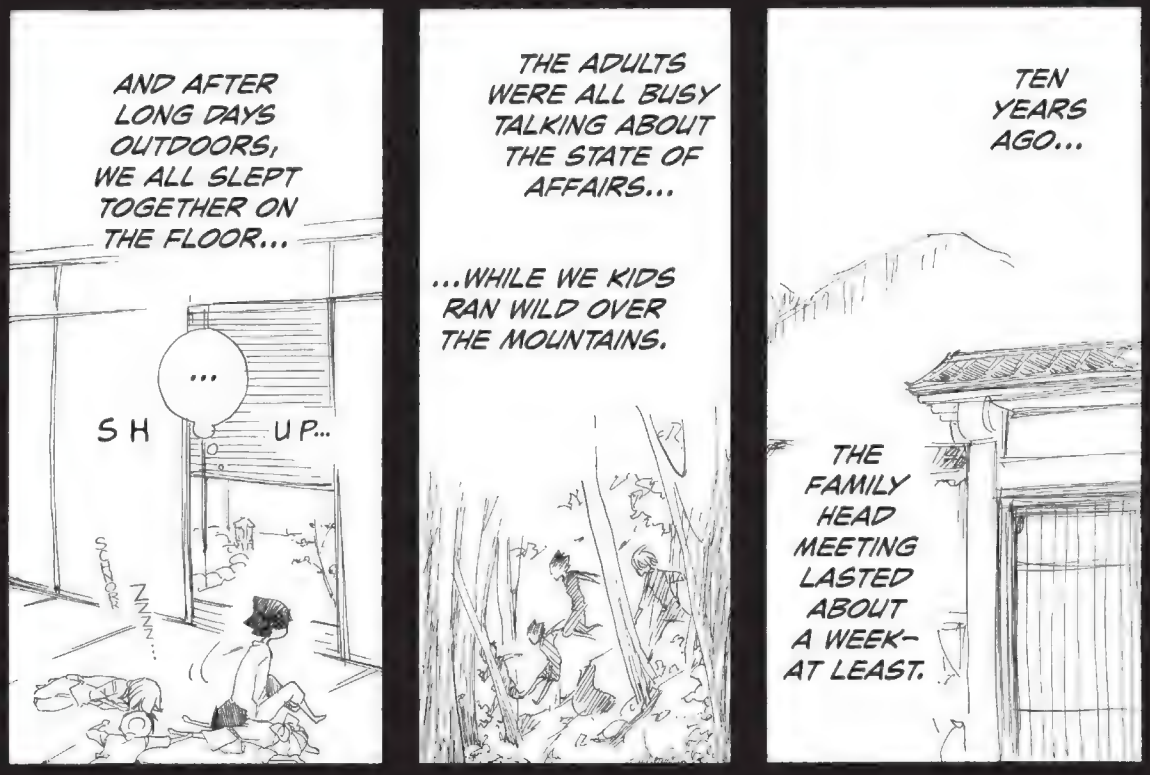


OH...

WE'LL WAKE UP TOGETHER IN THE MORNING.
WE'LL GO FOR A WALK AND PLAY FRISBEE ON SUNNY DAYS.
WE'LL LAZE AROUND THE HOUSE WHEN IT'S RAINING.
ROLL
ROLL ROLL
AND WE'LL SLEEP TOGETHER AT NIGHT!

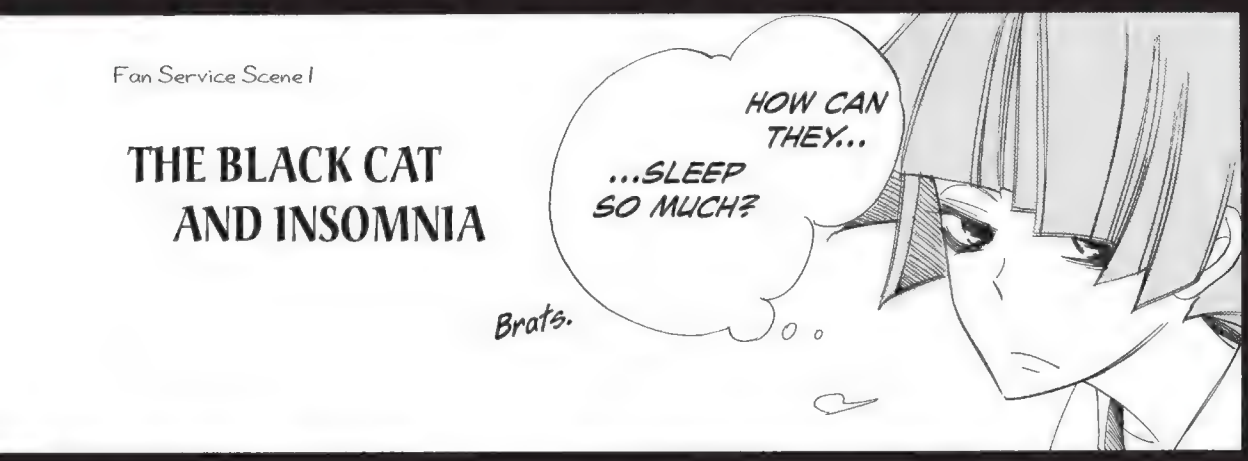

KLTTR...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
Oh, White! You're here too?
WHA
AP
THE DATE OF THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING HAS BEEN SET!
SO YOU DON'T NEED THESE STUFFED ANIMALS ANYMORE!

HURRAY!
HURRAY!
HURRAY!
DOES THAT MEAN I GET TO SEE MIKA?!
YES, WHITE!! AND I'LL GET TO SEE SNOW AND NIGHT!!
TEE HEE
THAT'S RIGHT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
AREN'T YOU GLAD?!


TEN YEARS AGO...
THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING LASTED ABOUT A WEEK— AT LEAST.
THE ADULTS WERE ALL BUSY TALKING ABOUT THE STATE OF AFFAIRS...
...WHILE WE KIDS RAN WILD OVER THE MOUNTAINS.
AND AFTER LONG DAYS OUTDOORS, WE ALL SLEPT TOGETHER ON THE FLOOR...
...
SH UP...
ZZZZ...

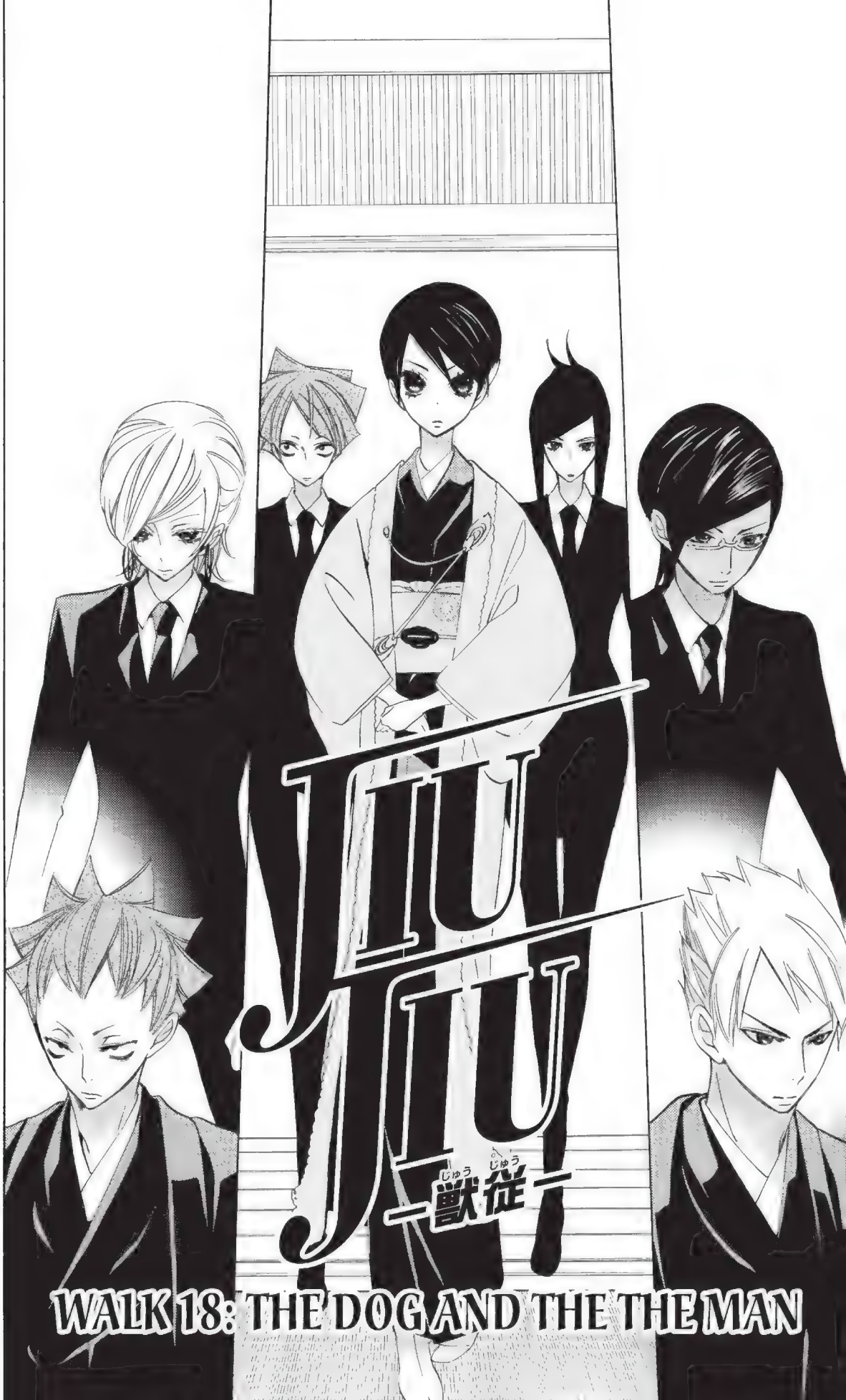
Fan Service Scene I

THE BLACK CAT AND INSOMNIA



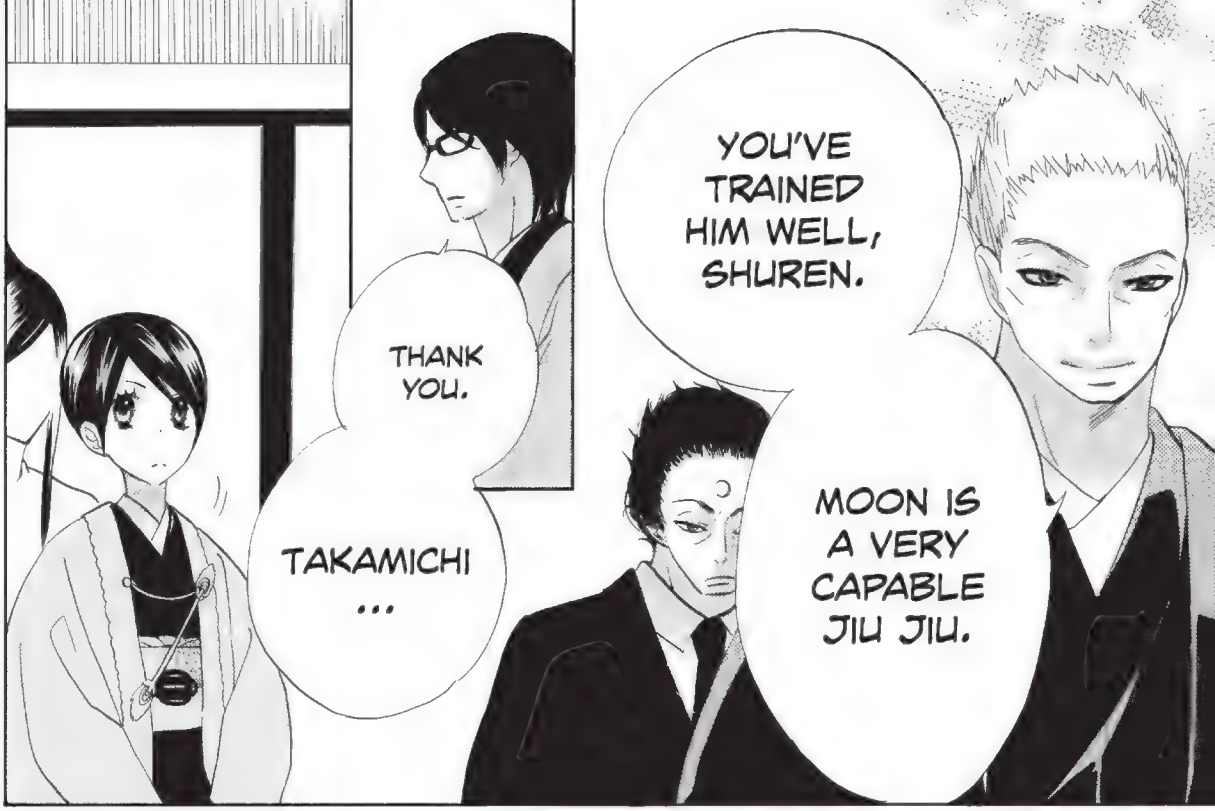
MY WIFE.
MY...
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
SURPRISINGLY, I SLEPT VERY WELL THAT NIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AFTER THAT, I REALIZED I SLEEP BETTER BESIDE ANIMALS.
...
PUNCH
KYON!
...
JUST LIKE TODAY ...

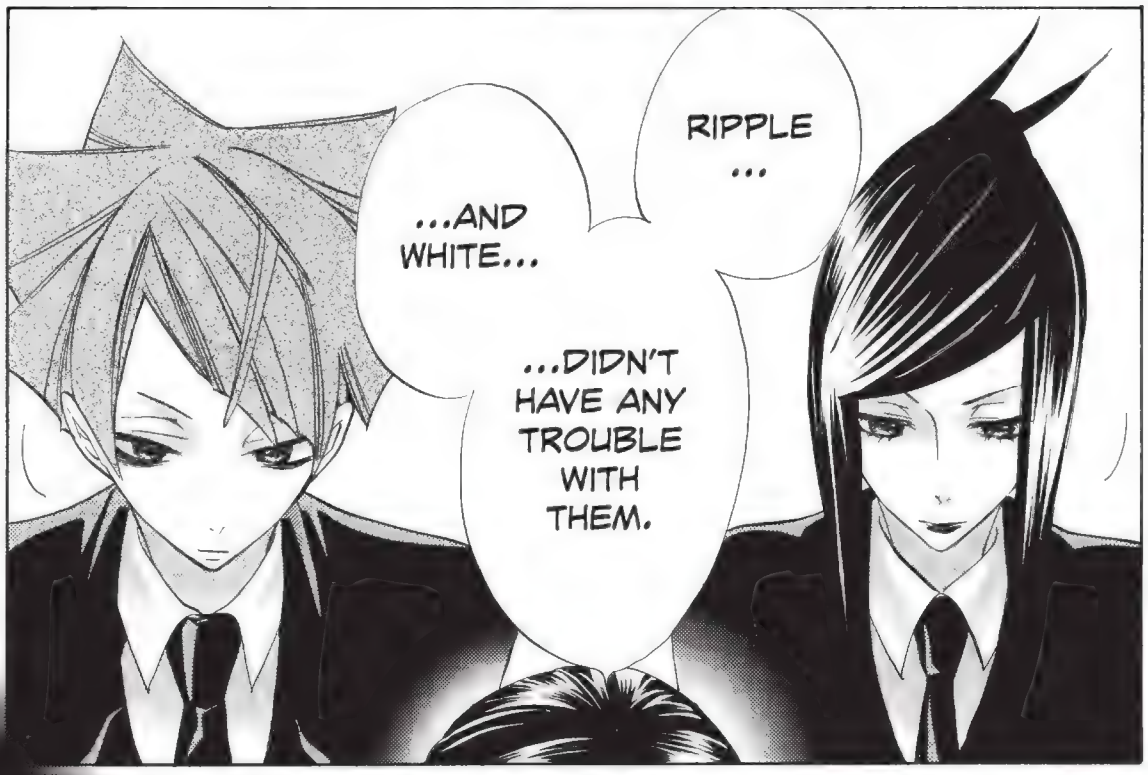
WALK 18: THE DOG AND THE MAN



WALK 18: THE DOG AND THE THE MAN

SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE EXCHANGE OF OUR MIXED BLOODS.
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS?
NONE WHATSOEVER.


YOU'VE TRAINED HIM WELL, SHUREN.
THANK YOU.
MOON IS A VERY CAPABLE JIU JIU.
TAKAMICHI ...


RIPPLE ...
...AND WHITE...
...DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM.

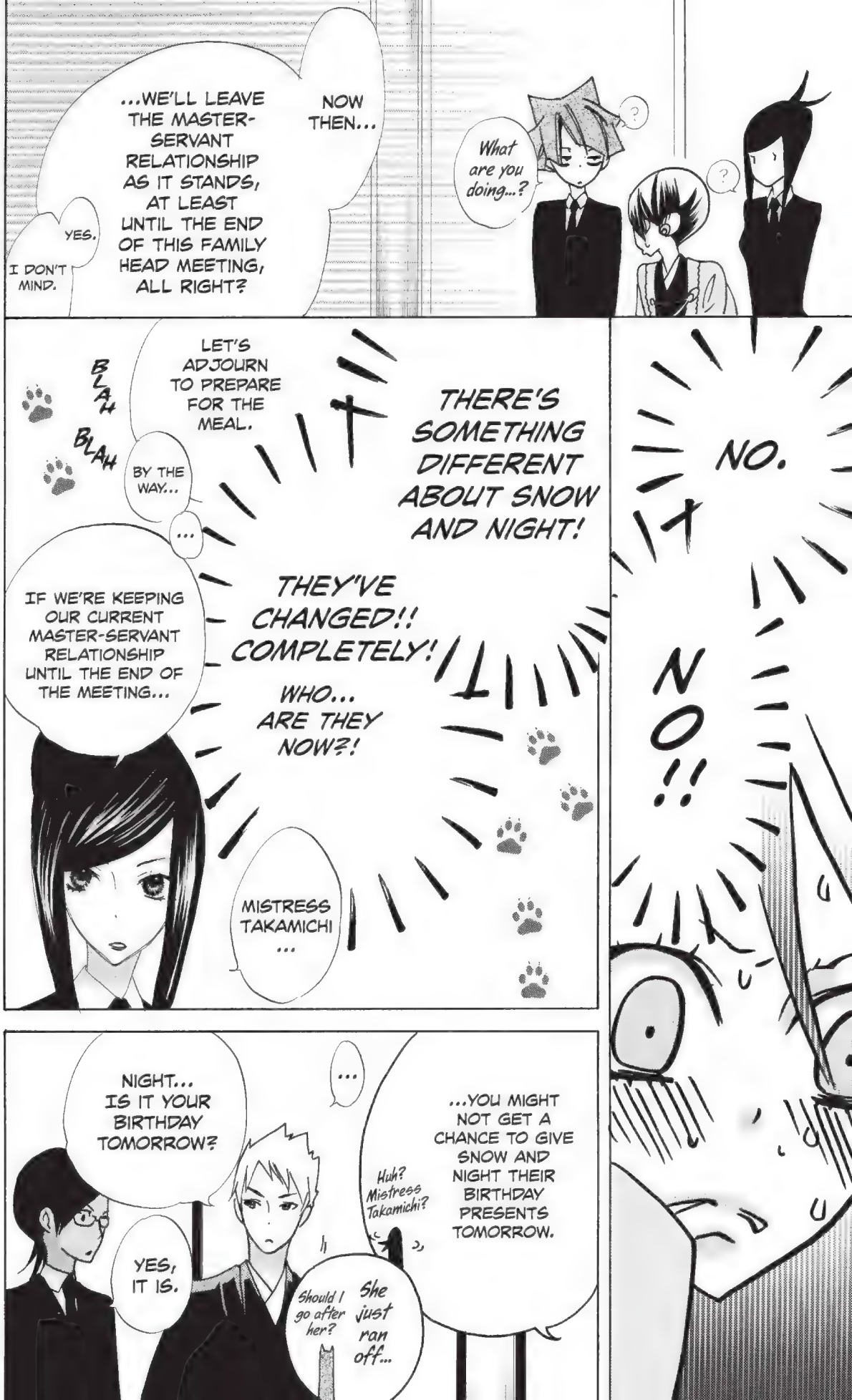
THAT ...
... HURT !!
...

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN I FIND YOU SLEEPING NEXT TO ME STARK NAKED?!
What a way to wake up!!
IT'S A HABIT. WHAT CAN I DO?
SHUT UP, IDIOT !!
WHY'RE YOU PUNCHING ME?!
I WAS GOING TO DRAW OUT YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES...
TCH!
...SO I COULD IMPRESS THAT STUPID GIRL. WHAT A MISTAKE THAT TURNED OUT TO BE!
...
DON'T TAKE THOSE OFF.
OH!
MY EARRINGS ...
A... habit?
YOU'RE ONE HELL OF A MONSTER!
HEY ...
THEY FEEL DIFFER-ENT...
THESE EAR-RINGS AREN'T-
I GAVE YOU COOLER ONES.
...

NAH, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIM.

B-BMP...
OH ...?
NIGHT ...
SNOW ...

That's right!
NIGHT. NIGHT...
Oh...
DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIM EITHER.
HE'S... STARING AT ME!
INTENSE
INTENSE...
... DAMN IT.
INTENSE
I WON'T LOSE!
STARING MATCH


...WE'LL LEAVE THE MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP AS IT STANDS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THIS FAMILY HEAD MEETING, ALL RIGHT?
NOW THEN...
YES. I DON'T MIND.
What are you doing...?
LET'S ADJOURN TO PREPARE FOR THE MEAL.
BLAH BLAH
BY THE WAY...
...
IF WE'RE KEEPING OUR CURRENT MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING...
THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT SNOW AND NIGHT!
THEY'VE CHANGED!! COMPLETELY!
WHO... ARE THEY NOW?!
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
NO.
NO!!
NIGHT... IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY TOMORROW?
YES, IT IS.
...
Huh? Mistress Takamichi?
Should I go after her?
She just ran off...
...YOU MIGHT NOT GET A CHANCE TO GIVE SNOW AND NIGHT THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS TOMORROW.

March 11, 2011.

The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred as I was working on Chapter 18.

The house and my hand kept shaking. I forced myself to complete the chapter, despite the circumstances. But for a while I couldn't even draw scribbles.

Because it was dark!
↑
We weren't in a scheduled blackout area, but I felt bad about turning the lights on.

Actually, I really couldn't draw anything for about two months after that. The only thing I managed was a message of support and rough sketches of the characters for a joint piece I was working on.
↑
I'd calmed down a lot by the time I worked on this.

I just hope someday people will be able to talk about it calmly... someday...

My dog. ← Summer version.

...
...
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT STUPID GIRL?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT'S THE ONE YOU JUST PICTURED IN YOUR HEAD.
HA HA.
I DON'T KNOW ANY STUPID GIRL.
...
That's what you want!
You just want to see her?
What do you care ...?
SHOCK
What do you want with Takamichi?
...
Night...
You're not talking about Mistress Takamichi, are you...?

...SNOW AND NIGHT?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE...
!
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
THOSE TWO ARE FAKES!
OR ELSE I'M DREAMING... OR SEEING THINGS!!
AND NIGHT WOULD TURN HIS FACE AWAY!!
VIP
SNOW USED TO...
ZOOM
...WAG HIS TAIL AND JUMP UP ON ME THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET.
NO!
NO!
THEY AREN'T THEM!

I'LL KNOW FOR SURE WHEN I SEE THEM AGAIN TOMORROW...
I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
THAT'S IT...
...
WHEN I SEE THEM... AGAIN...
...

INTENSE
I WASN'T MISTAKEN!!
Hmph.
?
HEY!
DDDMP
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR THE SECOND DAY OF OUR MEETING...
SHAA
AGAIN?! MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ?!
TMP
ZOOM
TMP
TMP TMP TMP

HEH.
WHAT?
SEI... ER, MASTER SEIJURO...
WHITE!
OH.
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR MISTRESS TAKAMICHI AS WELL?
BBMP
I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND YESTERDAY.
YES ...
THEY'RE... GONE.
...
THIS WAY, PLEASE, SEI— MASTER SEIJURO. DON'T GET LOST.
IF YOU'D TOLD ME, I WOULD HAVE LED YOU TO HER ROOM.
...

...THE SNOW AND NIGHT I KNOW!
HOW CAN I FACE THEM?!
THESE AREN'T...
... I ought to beat the crap out of you.
ROUND AND FLUFFY ...?
...WITH GROWN-UP EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES BEFORE!
BUT THIS IS DIFFER-ENT!
YEAH, I'VE SEEN THEM ...
HUH?
FWAP
THEY'RE ROUND...
...AND FLUFFY...
... PUPPIES ...
THE SNOW AND NIGHT I KNOW ARE...
...

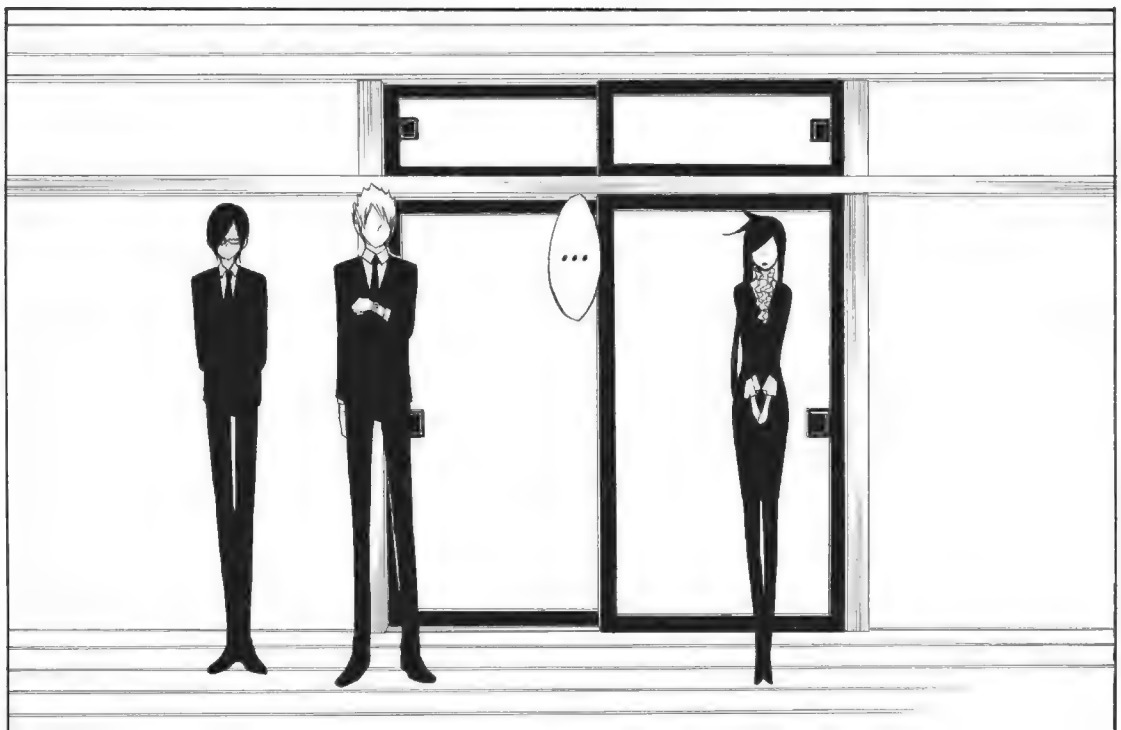
HEY, STUPID.
IT'S TRUE ...
WHAT THE HELL IS IT ABOUT THOSE TWO...
...THAT WOULD MAKE YOU SAY SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS?

SNOW
...
...
AND
NIGHT
...
...HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
...
THAT SLAP ON THE FACE BACK THEN...

THEY'VE NEVER BEEN ORDINARY DOGS!!
IT'S TIME...
...YOU WERE TREATED LIKE...
THAT'S RIGHT !!
...A REAL WOMAN.
KTTR!!

KL T ! TA
...
Eh?
...
!!
SNOW ...
OOH, THAT WAS CLOSE!
HE WAS ABOUT TO RUIN MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...
... MASTER MIKA?
...
You...

...
SNOW, COULD YOU REMOVE THAT DANGEROUS MAN FROM OUR PRESENCE, PLEASE?


...

I WONDER IF THEY'VE FOUND MISTRESS TAKAMICHI YET...
SHOULD I LOOK FOR THEM?
NO... I'LL GO.
I don't want her to come back when you're not around.
??
?
What does he mean by that...?
UM... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST FAMILY HEAD MEETING...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT WAS PARTLY SNOW'S FAULT ANYWAY.
FIXED
YES. IT WAS SNOW'S FAULT.
HOW DARE YOU! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SNOW!
MEH
ANY-WAY... IS SEIJURO GOING TO...
Hmph.
...BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MISTRESS TAKAMICHI? HE'S KIND OF STRANGE. I DON'T THINK HE CAN HANDLE IT.
Definitely impossible.
Impossible.
DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW MASTER SEIJURO AFTER JUST TWO MONTHS!!
HMPH
Ha!
AND I DON'T FIND IT APPROPRIATE FOR A SERVANT TO CALL HIS MASTER BY HIS GIVEN NAME!!
TIME IS IRRELEVANT WHEN IT COMES TO THESE MATTERS, RIPPLE.
Who do you think you are?!
Hmph.
PLEASE DON'T TURN AROUND...
... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
It's dangerous.

THEN ...
... PUT ME DOWN !!
You'll run away if I put you down.
What are you jealous of, anyway?!
...HOLD ONTO ME LIKE THAT. I MEAN ONTO THIS BODY...
PLEASE DON'T...
MISTRESS TAKAMI...
...CHI.
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI... COULD YOU... STOP?

UH...
UM... WELL ...

INTENSE
...
YAY
WHEE

Why do you want to see me?!
OH, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI! DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE NIGHT?
?!
UH...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS ...

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT. FOR YOU.
SNOW AND NIGHT...
...AREN'T ORDINARY DOGS.
HERE.
!
MAY I OPEN IT NOW?!
THEY'RE GROWING UP... AS PEOPLE.
RIPPLE...
BUT...
THIS PRESENT IS...
GO AHEAD.
RSTL
RSTL
...
RSTL
OH.
ISN'T THAT NATURAL?
YOU'RE AWFULLY COOPERATIVE... HELPING HER GIVE THEM THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...
... NIGHT!

NIGHT WAS STILL NIGHT!

THEY WERE JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS BEFORE— BECAUSE WE HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE, I GUESS!

WAIT HERE, OKAY?!

HEY, THEY'RE ACTUALLY GETTING ALONG...
WE'LL BE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME FROM NOW ON ANYWAY.
ZHLOOP...
YOU DON'T SOUND ALL THAT THRILLED ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
IT'S OKAY ...
...

SNOW!

ANYWAY... TAKAMICHI SEEMS TO...
...GET ALONG WELL WITH THE WEASEL AND THE CROW.
...
SIGH...
AND THEY'RE UP CLOSE TO EACH OTHER TOO...
IRK
Get away from him!!
IRK
I DON'T NEED YOU EITHER.
MAYBE... SHE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE...
SNFFL
BUT THAT STUPID GIRL KEEPS AVOIDING YOU.
BBMP
TAKA-MICHI...
...A PILLOW ?!
You're too heavy! That hurts! I don't want to do this!
OH, BUT ...
I DON'T MIND USING YOU AS A PILLOW!
MIKAAA!
ZLLLLOOP
YOU'RE INTO GUYS NOW TOO?!
SNOW IS MY BLANKET !!
BY THE WAY... WHITE IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.
Oh?
THERE YOU HAVE IT.
Happy now?

HEY!
DAMN... I RESPONDED TO HER LIKE I ALWAYS DO!!
I DON'T ...
WHITE! KEEP AN EYE ON HIM! HE'S DANGEROUS! THAT'S AN ORDER!
SHW
ISH
GOTCHA!
...KNOW ANYMORE ...
I WAS ...
...GOING TO MAKE AMENDS... WITH HIS LIFE AND MINE...
...FOR YOU AND HAKU...
BUT ...
...I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...

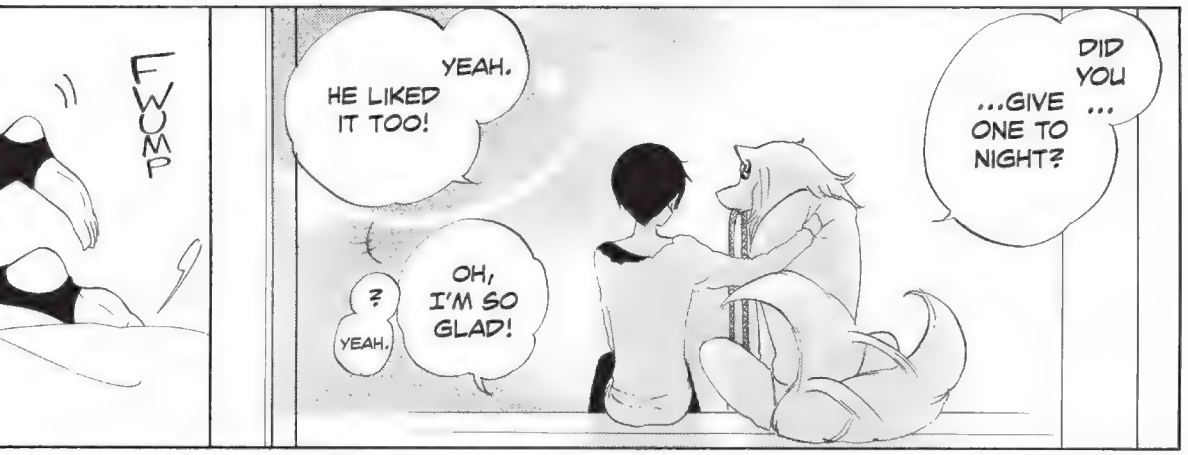
I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH...
... YOU ...
... MIKA.
IF LIFE IS A LIVING HELL FOR YOU...
I WANT YOU TO CHOOSE HELL...
I'LL SAY IT OVER AND OVER...
I WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU.
THERE'S ... ... SOMETHING I'VE NOTICED...
HEY! SNOW ...
OH.
TWITCH
I WANT YOU TO LIVE.
LET'S END THIS... ... WHITE.
YES.

HOORAY! THANKS!
RIP
TEAR
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT ?!
GRAB
HERE.
!
FWOOP
HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...
... SNOW.
WE CAN GO OUT FOR A WALK EVERY DAY OVER WINTER BREAK, OKAY?

...
Snow
...
...
WOOF
SO MUCH FUN!
GO FOR A WALK! A WALK!!

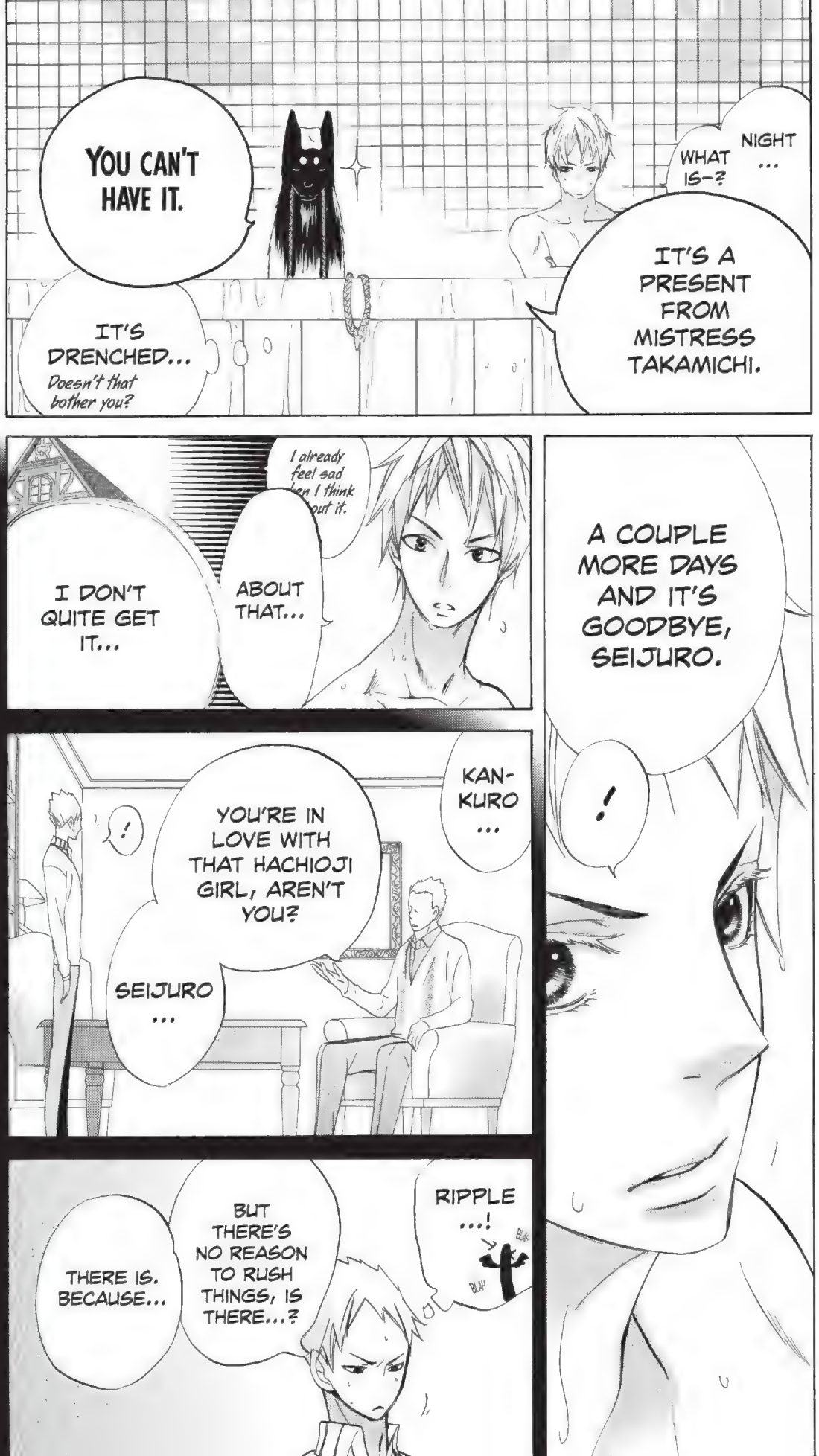
WALK, WALK!
SO MUCH FUN.

SHUT UP!
HUGG
...
I'M SO HAPPY.


FWUMP
YEAH. HE LIKED IT TOO!
OH, I'M SO GLAD!
?
YEAH.
DID YOU ...GIVE ONE TO NIGHT?

BUT THEY'RE STILL DOGS.
...HAVE GROWN UP AS PEOPLE...
SNOW AND NIGHT...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

A LEASH... FOR TAKING YOU ON WALKS?
FROM TAKAMICHI.
A LEASH.
WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
WHAT'S ... ... THAT?
IT'S MORE THAN HOPELESS.
IT'S MY PRESENT FOR MY FOURTH BIRTHDAY.
HA HA! IT'S HOPELESS!
...ARE MONSTERS.
NIGHT AND I...
OOOOH! I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN!
OWW
SPLASH...


YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.
IT'S DRENCHED... Doesn't that bother you?
WHAT IS-?
NIGHT ...
IT'S A PRESENT FROM MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
I DON'T QUITE GET IT...
ABOUT THAT...
I already feel sad when I think about it.
A COUPLE MORE DAYS AND IT'S GOODBYE, SEIJURO.
!
KAN-KURO ...
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THAT HACHIOJI GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
SEIJURO ...
!
RIPPLE ...!
BLAH
BLAH
BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO RUSH THINGS, IS THERE...?
THERE IS. BECAUSE...

...THERE'S A POSSIBILITY... THAT TAKAYUKI HACHIOJI... IS ALIVE.
...WE OUGHT TO TELL MISTRESS TAKAMICHI RIGHT AWAY!
KLTTR
I NEVER REALLY BELIEVED HE WAS DEAD, BUT...
TH-THEN...
IF TAKAYUKI IS ALIVE...
...THEN TAKAMICHI BELONGS TO NEKOZANE AGAIN.
SEIJURO!
YOU MUSTN'T RELINQUISH YOUR DESIRES SO EASILY!!

Which character do you enjoy drawing the most?

Nagasaki Prefecture: Rogetsu

Which character is the hardest to draw?

Kanagawa Prefecture: Yuki

Well, when I feel good, I enjoy drawing all the characters. But when I don't feel good, I have trouble drawing all the characters. Oh, but I think I have trouble drawing Seijuro and Night all the time. And the contours of Mistress Takamichi's body.

What do you pay attention to when drawing?

Aomori Prefecture: Natsumi

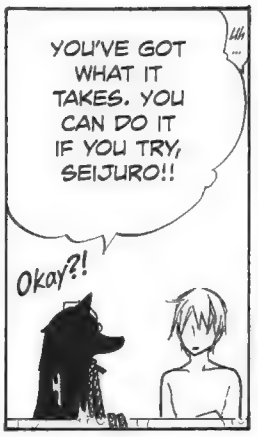
There are so many things... I always remember something I've forgotten to do at the very end of working on my final draft. Argh! I'm sure I've forgotten to do something now as well. But the thing I focus on the most is to draw my manga with love.

Who is Fenrir?

Nagasaki Prefecture: Leona

Fenrir is a giant wolf who is probably the most famous monster in Norse mythology.

Moon, Snow and Night are distant descendants.



...
...
...
CHAK
NOTHING HAPPENED.
MIKA WAS VERY QUIET TOO.
COME ...
... NOW ...

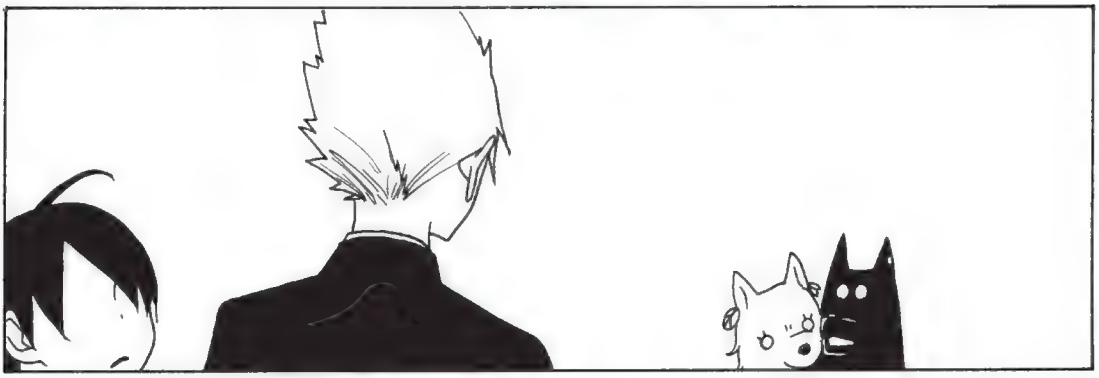
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERY-THING...
... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
!!
I HOPE YOU GET ALONG WITH MIKA!
WE'RE ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED.
Oh my...!!
GET IT ON WITH MIKA ...?!
IS HE OKAY?
DON'T WORRY. HE'S JUST ILL.
?
That's indecent !!

SNOW ...
PHEW. IT'S OVER AT LAST ...
YES!
NIGHT ...
FINALLY WE CAN...
LET'S GO FOR A WALK!
...SPEND TIME TOGETHER- JUST THE THREE OF US!
SKREECH

GLARE
Is he mad...?
WHOA!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY...
CHAKK
M... M-Mika.
Shut up!
?
THE REASON I KISSED YOU... AND ONLY KISSED YOU...
...IS BECAUSE I HAVE MY PRIDE, YOU STUPID GIRL!!
Umm...

...THINK OF THOSE TWO AS ORDINARY DOGS.
They're not dogs. They're wolves.
PTU PTU
LET GO OF ME, SNOW!!
Don't...
I'd never fall in love with a brat like you!! So don't delude yourself!!
Drop dead!
White! You don't have to bow to her!
CHAK CHAK
VRRRM
WHY DID THE NEKOZANE FAMILY HEAD BEHAVE SO RUDELY...?
HMPH ...
Then you shouldn't tear him to pieces.
WHY IS NIGHT SO MAD?
GRRR
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM! EVEN AFTER I TEAR HIM TO PIECES!!

HEY, NIGHT ...
I'M THE ONE MIKA KISSED, YOU KNOW.
SO THAT'S WHY!!
HOW COME YOUR FIANCÉ IS SO CALM ABOUT IT?!
SEI-JURO !!



I'M GOING TO BE STICKING AROUND FOR A WHILE.
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?
GO HOME.
GO HOME.
MASTER SEIJURO ...

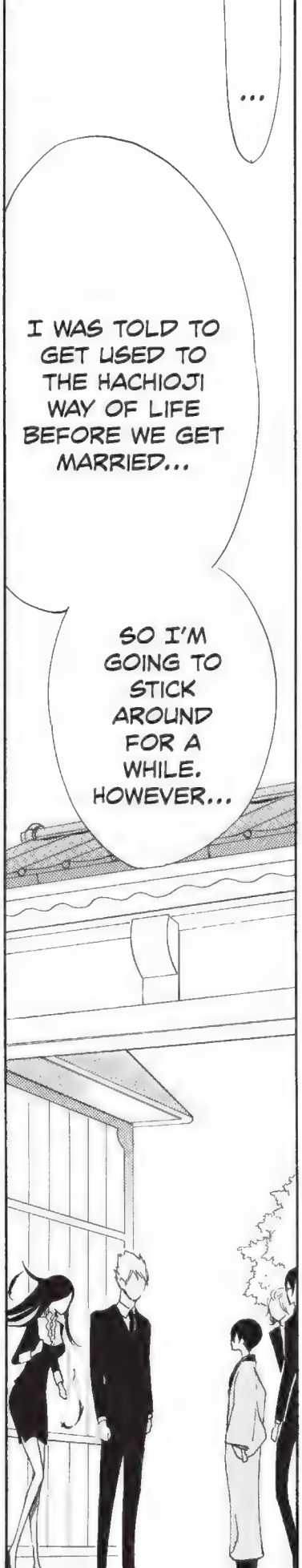
WHAT A BRISK MORNING. HOW REFRESHING.
YES, IT CERTAINLY IS...
...
WHAT A NICE DAY FOR A WALK...
IT WOULD BE REFRESHING IF YOU WEREN'T HERE!!
...
IT'S COLD IN TOKYO TOO.
YEP, IT SURE IS.

Fan Service Scene 2

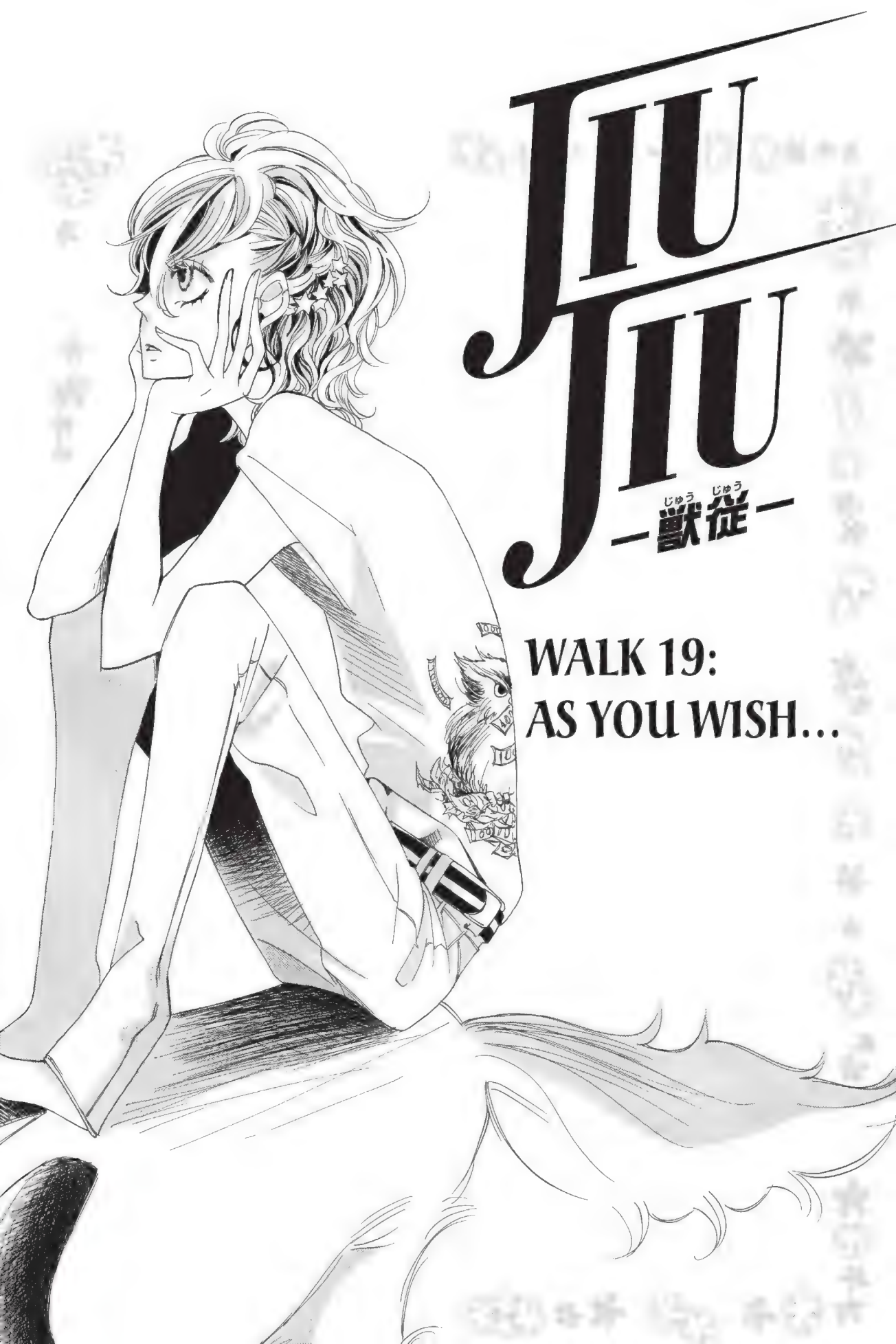
ETERNITY AND THE DUCKLING

...
SEE?
THEY KNOW INSTINCTIVELY...
Yuki just beat the crap out of you!
HUH?!
I lost on purpose !!
Don't lie! Dumb Mika!!
...THAT SOCIAL STATUS IS MEANINGLESS.
DSCH
KR
STOP IT!
TCH...
HEH
FINE.
...MIKA NEKOZANE!
I'LL FIGHT YOU NEXT...
...JUST LIKE HIM.
HUH?!
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CRY, SEIJURO!
I'M PROBABLY ...
...Night even knows what a kiss is.
Anyway, I'm surprised that...
What are you talking about?!
Don't worry.
He won't kiss her a second time.
OF COURSE NOT.

WALK 19: AS YOU WISH...



LET'S GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY.



WALK 19: AS YOU WISH...

IS THERE NO WOMAN IN THIS WORLD YOU LIKE, MASTER MIKA...?
...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
MISS HAMANASU, DAUGHTER OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN HEAD, IS HERE TO PAY YOU A VISIT...
...MASTER MIKA...
TURN HER AWAY.
I DON'T LIKE THAT GIRL.
...
Hmph...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T CHOSEN A BRIDE YET, MASTER MIKA.
...
WHAT ...?
EVEN THE FUTURE FAMILY HEAD OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN...
...HAS CHOSEN SOMEONE.

Walk...
Walk...
THAT WAS A PRETTY SLICK MOVE SEIJURO MADE...!
BUT I WON'T LOSE TO HIM!!
HEY! HEY, NIGHT!
WHY ARE YOU COMPETING WITH HIM, ANYWAY ...?
WALK.
WALK.

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
I VOWED I WOULDN'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE!
...I SO... WILL NOT LOSE.

YES.
UH-HUH.
RIGHT NOW, I THINK...
OKAY.
...
I MUST BE STUPID ...
...TO HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS "LOVE"...
OUCH.
THAT'S NOT FAIR, NIGHT!!
I WANT TO DO IT TOO. I WANT TO DO IT TOO!!
!
I LOVE YOU TOO...
...TAKA-MICHI!
SNOW!!
WHOA
QUIT HANGING AROUND STARK NAKED!
WHOA
What about Night?!
Oh! It's been so long!!
Shut up!!

HOW COME ...
AWWWW!
DO WE HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE RIVER BANK AGAIN?
WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT NOW?
THERE'S SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE DOWN THERE!
Woof.
...YOU KEEP FOLLOWING US ON OUR WALKS...
... SEIJURO ?!
!
WOOF
AND WHERE'S RIPPLE ?!
SHE SAID MY NAME...
A MONSTER HAS BEEN TARGETING HUNTERS AROUND HERE RECENTLY. IT'S DANGEROUS...
Ripple is out investigating the incidents...

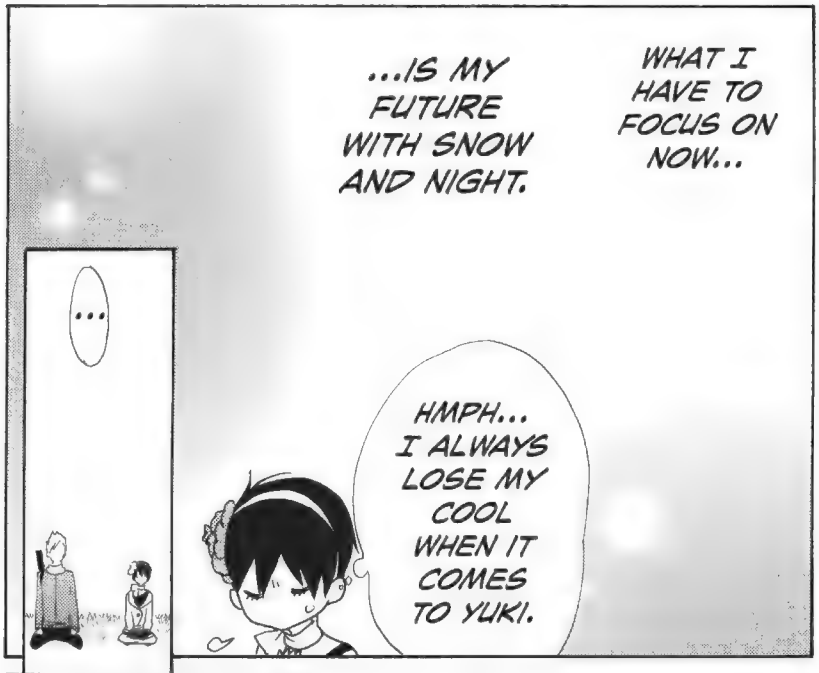
Agh!
SHUT UP!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND DOG TALK, DAMMIT!
WOOF
LET'S PLAY !!!
TAKAMICHI,
WOOF PROTECT,
WOOF
WOOF WOOF WOOF
WOOF WOOF WOOF
WOOF WOOF WOOF
O-OKAY!
SNOW AND NIGHT ARE SAYING THEY'LL PROTECT ME- SO WE DON'T NEED YOU!
WOOF WOOF WOOF
THAT'S WHY I-
WOOF WOOF WOOF
WHAT ...?!
NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT!! AND I DON'T HAVE ANY HUNTING JOBS AT THE MOMENT!!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF idiot
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
HUH?!
THEY CAN PROTECT YOU WHILE I HELP MASTER SHUREN WITH HIS WORK.
WOOF
ALL OF YOU...! WILL YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN...!
My father!! Damn him!
I NEVER AGREED TO LET YOU HELP HIM WITH HIS WORK!!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
Snock!
SORRY ...
YOU GUYS ARE USELESS.
WE DON'T KNOW YET...
Ha.
...
WHAT TYPE OF MONSTER IS ATTACKING THE HUNTERS?
JERKY
WELL?
MNCH
MNCH
MNCH
MNCH

Sickle-weasel/fox hybrid
Mixed Blood
YOU MEAN IT'S ONE OF WHITE'S RELATIVES? NEAR MIKA'S HOME?
...THE WOUNDS LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN CREATED BY A WHIRLWIND...
...SO IT SEEMS LIKE THE WORK OF A SICKLE-WEASEL...
...
APPAR-ENTLY ...
BUT NO SIGN OF SICKLE-WEASELS...
...HAS BEEN CONFIRMED SINCE MY BROTHER KANKURO ANNIHILATED THEM EIGHT YEARS AGO.
WHITE-A HYBRID-IS THE CLOSEST THING THAT STILL EXISTS-AS FAR AS WE KNOW.
EIGHT YEARS AGO...
AND WHITE HAS A MOTIVE...
...
WHAT?
IT WAS THE NEKOZANE FAMILY HEAD-MIKA'S FATHER-THIS TIME?
When are you coming home?

GRIN
NOT...
FWUU...
WHAT?
!
BACK THEN, DID YUKI...
DAD COULD BE IN DANGER TOO, THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.
Right?
YUKI ...?
Oh.
D'you think stupid Mika will cry?
BUT ...
...THE ONE WHO DIED NEXT WAS...
ANOTHER FUNERAL?
THIS MUST BE A CURSE.
Hey, when are you coming home?
BOE
BOE
TAKA-YUKI DIED IN A MONSTER HUNTING ACCIDENT.
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT, KANKURO?
YOU KILLED TAKAYUKI!
BRAIN SHORT-CIRCUITING
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE.
...
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S AROUND THE TIME YOUNG MASTER TAKAYUKI DIED, ISN'T IT...?
... KNOW SOME-THING ...?

GAAH!
WOOF
HUH ...?
HEY ...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
?!
What is it?! What are you doing, Night?!
WOOF
!!
...

I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO ON ANY NONESSENTIAL EXPEDITIONS ANYMORE.
OH...
!
?!
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO?


...IS MY FUTURE WITH SNOW AND NIGHT.
WHAT I HAVE TO FOCUS ON NOW...
...
HMPH... I ALWAYS LOSE MY COOL WHEN IT COMES TO YUKI.

I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE MY HEAD AGAIN...

OH.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SO I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO GO TO YOUR HOME TO PRESENT THE BETROTHAL GIFTS!!
YOU'RE MARRYING INTO THE HACHIOJI FAMILY!
LOOK ...

YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY DAY THAT WORKS FOR THE SHIRATORI FAMILY— JUST PICK A DATE ALREADY!
...
ABOUT THAT...
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO INVESTIGATE FIRST, SO... I'D PREFER THAT YOU WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
...
HUH?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD DO IT RIGHT AWAY!!
S-S...
S-Sorry
Huh?
What's the hold-up?!
What?!
DAMMIT!!
DO YOU WANNA MARRY ME OR NOT?!
OF COURSE I DO!!
VERY MUCH!
A-ANYWAY...
...JUST SET A DATE, OKAY?!
ALL RIGHT...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
OH!
WOOF!
BLUSH...

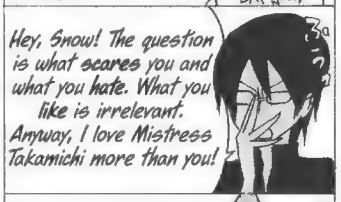
I HAVE TO GO NOW...
BUT I'LL JOIN YOU WHENEVER YOU GO OUT AGAIN.
NO, THANK YOU.
We don't need you.
...SPENDS HER DAYS ARRANGING FLOWERS AND PERFORMING TEA CEREMONIES RATHER THAN TAKING PART IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
I'M QUITE CERTAIN MASTER SHUREN ...
...WISHES FOR YOU TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A WOMAN LIKE HER TOO.
My stupid father likes you more than me.
Why is it just you, Seijuro...?
MMBL MMBL
MY ELDER SISTER, HAMANASU ...
I DID IT! I HAD A CONVERSATION WITH HER!
BBMP
BBMP
HE'S PRETTY NICE.
BBMP

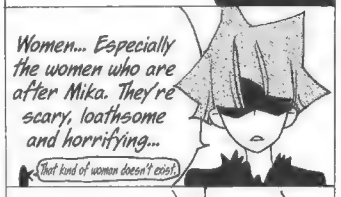
What do the characters of *Jiu Jiu* fear most and who do they hate?

Saitama Prefecture: Yui

That question sounds kind of mean now that I boiled it down to one line...
Anyway, here are the answers.

Umm...
Well, I love Takamichi. And I love going for walks! I like taking baths and eating snacks and reading manga too, but my favorite will always be Takamichi.


Hey, Snow! The question is what scares you and what you hate. What you like is irrelevant. Anyway, I love Mistress Takamichi more than you!



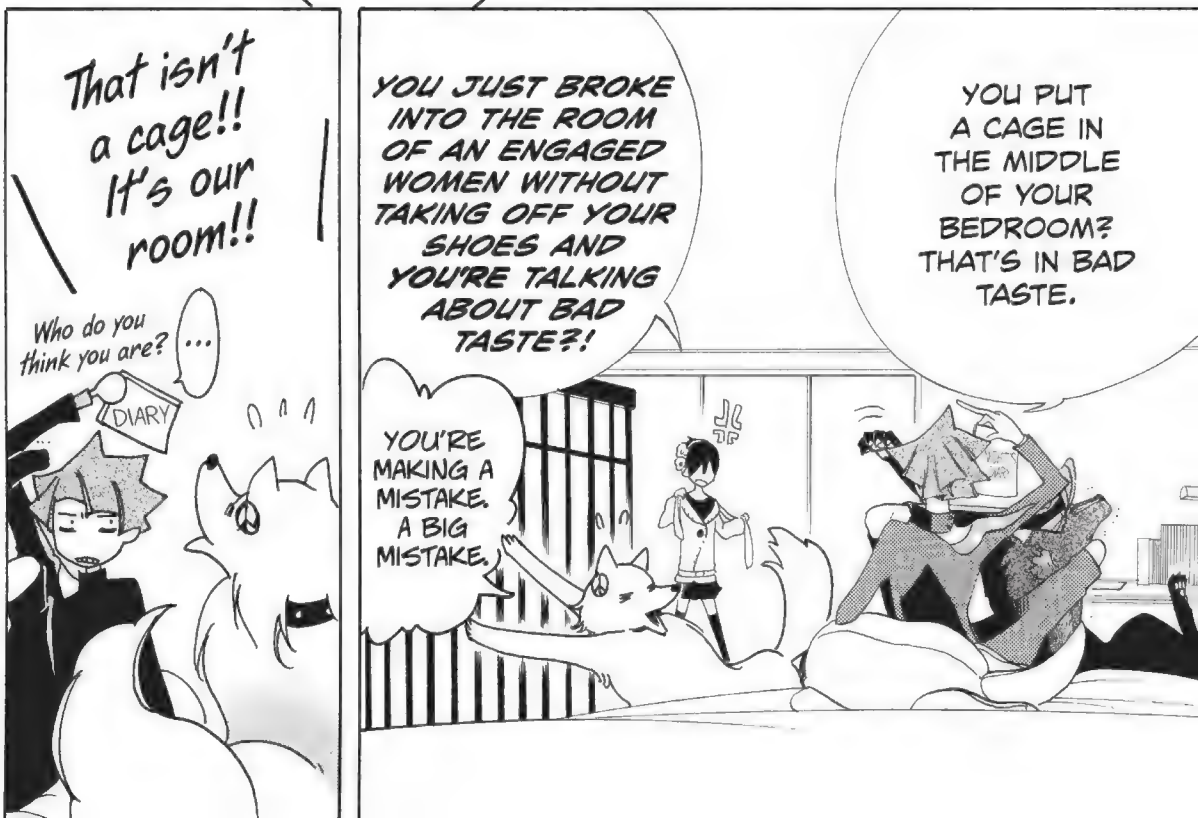
Come to think of it, they all hate so many things and are scared of so many things I couldn't come up with a clear answer...

By the way, Hodaka calls Mika "Kitty Cat." I like that because it sounds cute.

Oh, I forgot to answer what I don't like.

HE ALREADY IS OUR SERVANT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SNOW...?
OWW...
IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT, I THINK WE CAN TURN HIM INTO OUR SERVANT!

!!!
I'll kill you!
Hey, black one...
GIVING SOMEONE YOUR DIARY...
...AS A PRESENT IS TOTALLY WHACK!
HEY! THAT'S ...!!!
SHOOR...
SHOOR...
...
YOU'RE NOT...
... WHITE, ARE YOU?
OH, HI...
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MIKA...?


That isn't a cage!! It's our room!!
Who do you think you are?
...
DIARY
YOU JUST BROKE INTO THE ROOM OF AN ENGAGED WOMEN WITHOUT TAKING OFF YOUR SHOES AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BAD TASTE?!
YOU PUT A CAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR BEDROOM? THAT'S IN BAD TASTE.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE. A BIG MISTAKE.

I'm sorry...

Since it took this volume a year to come out, I have a year's worth of questions to answer.

Thank you!

I've received lots of nice fan art too!!

Unfortunately, some fans apparently look forward to my silly four-panel manga and silly side-stories, so I won't be able to answer all your questions.
There just aren't enough pages... Wahhh!!
But I've received all your letters expressing your appreciation!!
Thank you very, very much!!

Okay, 90% ladies group! Follow me to vol. 5!!

I apologize...
My sincerest apologies.

But please continue to support me. Really. My life depends upon it.

Touya Yoshimi Tobina
My real name.

Oops. The artwork is protruding beyond the panel border.

...
I WAS TOLD TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO THE HACHIOJI WAY OF LIFE... ...BEFORE WE MARRY...
I JUST ASSUMED...
...THIS WAS MY ANNOYING FATHER'S-
YANK
Ow!
ARE YOU STUPID, OR WHAT?
IT'S GOTTA BE KANKURO!
WHAT IS HE IN SUCH A HURRY FOR...?!
MIKA ...
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OBSESSED WITH KANKURO? IS IT BECAUSE HE'S THE SHIRATORI FAMILY HEAD...?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT PITYING LOOK.
For God's sake!
Oh... Ah... Don't stop.
BUT HE'S A MEMBER OF THE ANTI-JIU JIU FACTION, SO I CAN'T IGNORE HIM.
I'm getting tired of this myself.
Ooo
BUT THE SHIRATORI CLAN USES JIU JIU TOO!
But I can't resist...
Th-This is humiliating.
THAT'S NO SURPRISE ...
KANKURO HATES MONSTERS FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.
Whoa! You're ignoring me! I don't like it!!
KANKURO ANNIHILATED THE...
...
OUR FAMILY'S LINE OF WORK WOULD BE A BETTER FIT FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT, BUT...

A SOPPY STORY ABOUT KANKURO'S GIRL GETTING ATTACKED BY A SICKLE-WEASEL.
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIM MASSACRING THE SICKLE-WEASELS?
YANK
YEAH.
Oooh, my tail...
YOU LOST YOUR FATHER TOO!
EIGHT YEARS AGO...
DON'T CALL IT SOPPY...
Hmph.
THAT'S WHEN HE CHANGED.
AND THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER THEY DECIDED TO ALLOW THE USE OF JIU JIU...
YEAH.
IT WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO WHEN... THE HEADS OF BOTH THE SHIRATORI AND THE NEKOZANE FAMILY DIED.
Oh...
You're so irri-tating !!
I'M NOT GOING TO ANSWER YOUR STUPID QUES-TIONS.

AND THEN...
...
TAKAYUKI
...

AH!
THERE IT IS AGAIN.
IT ALL STARTED AFTER KANKURO DEVELOPED A PERSONAL HATRED OF MONSTERS.
...THREE OTHER PEOPLE IN POSITIONS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A FAMILY HEAD DIED IN A HUNTING ACCIDENT.
AND AROUND THAT SAME TIME...

AND KANKURO IS THE ONE WHO IS...
...PRESSURING YOU TWO TO GET MARRIED. THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME REASON BEHIND IT...
THERE ISN'T.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
EVEN IF KANKURO IS ONE OF THOSE WHO WANTS TO ABOLISH THE JIU JIU SYSTEM.
I'M GOING TO MARRY SEIJURO ANYWAY, SOONER OR LATER.
VRRB
VRRB
VRRB
VRRB
VRRB
RUB...
Work...
VRRB

YUKI ...
AND ...
VRR
...? A PHONE CALL?
VRR
VRR
YUKI DIED ...
...BE-CAUSE OF ME...
... DIED ...
...TO PROTECT ME.
... RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
VRR
THAT SCAR...
ROLL
...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MY FATHER- NOT YUKI.
YOU IDIOT!
IF HE WAS AFTER THE HACHIOJI CLAN TOO...

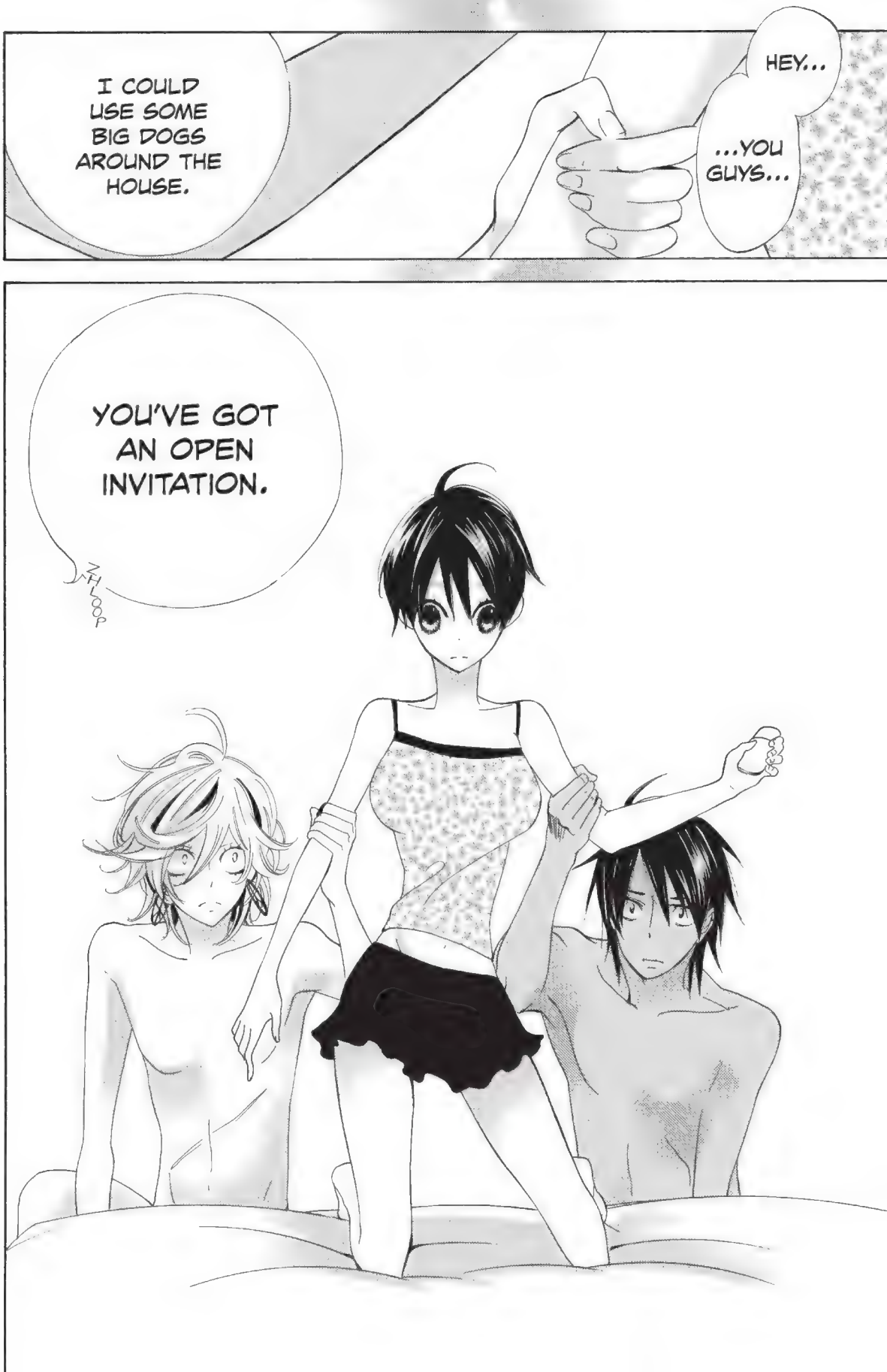
SEIJURO ...?
BRRRRNG
BRR
BRRRRNG
SHE ...
...SAID MY NAME AGAIN...
UM, YES ...
ABOUT THE BETROTHAL GIFTS...
MY ELDER BROTHER SAID TOMORROW ...
IS THAT TOO SOON ...?
WHAT IS IT?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
!
IT'S FINE.
KYAA
!
IDIOT.
HAND IT OVER!
?!
MIKA ?!

CHAK
Anyway...
...why is he calling from right in front of the house?
He's a masochist—I knew it.
He doesn't want to be with me until we're officially married.

CURRENTLY JANUARY: MIDWINTER.

IN PLACE OF YUKI.
...BECOME THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN.
...I'M GOING TO...
I'M GETTING MARRIED SO I CAN...
...PROTECT SNOW AND NIGHT.
...

HA! THAT'S THE...
...STUPIDEST PLAN I'VE EVER HEARD.
EVEN IF THAT MEANS YOU END UP...
HE PROTECTED ME...
...LIKE TAKAYUKI?


I COULD USE SOME BIG DOGS AROUND THE HOUSE.
HEY...
...YOU GUYS...
YOU'VE GOT AN OPEN INVITATION.
ZHLOOP

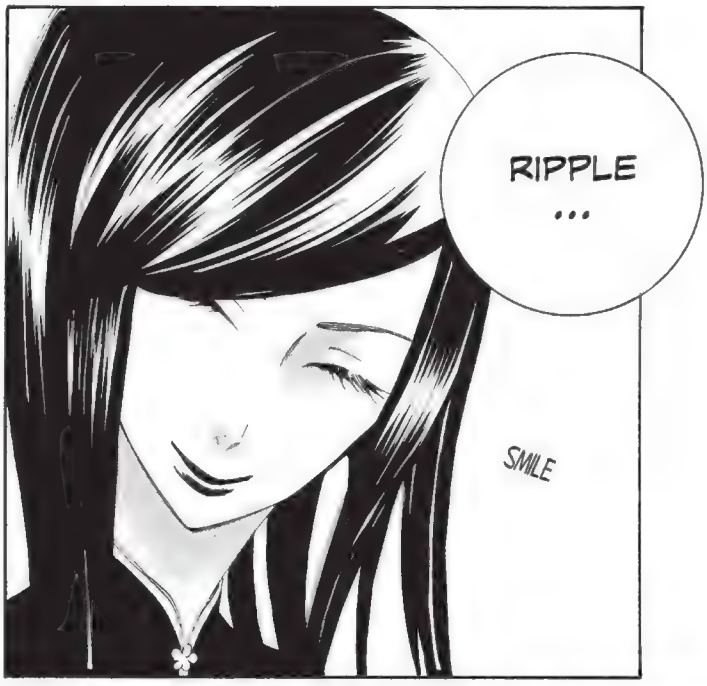
WHERE'S YOUR CROW GIRL?
THE FAMILY HEAD... IS TRAVELING... WITHOUT A SERVANT?
GET YOUR BUTT OFF MY BIKE, WILL YOU?!
OH?
AS IN... ASSASSI-NATING PEOPLE?
...
RIPPLE IS OUT HUNTING ...
HAVE YOU SEEN THE SCAR ON THAT STUPID GIRL'S BACK?
?
HER... BACK?
TCH.
YOU OUGHT TO DENY THAT AT LEAST!
I can't believe you.
VRRRRR
URM
...

FYU
TAKE GOOD CARE...
...OF TAKA-MICHI.
UU
...SEIJURO.
It is not okay!
IRK
IRK
URM
URM
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN HER BED-ROOM ?!
IT'S OKAY...
URM
VRRM...
...KAN-KURO?
YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING... AREN'T YOU...
WELL ?
NOTHING SPECIAL, THAT IS.
NAH.
SHE'S COMING HERE TOMORROW ...

I'VE ...
...PROVIDED SOME PROTECTION FOR HER TOO.
...SEIJURO PROPOSED TO TAKAMICHI. BUT THEY'RE TURNING OUT TO BE A LOT DULLER THAN I IMAGINED.
WELL, THEY ARE BEASTS AFTER ALL.
I WAS EXPECTING THOSE HALF-WOLVES TO LOSE THEIR TEMPER AND GET VIOLENT WHEN...
NO.
IT'S SO UNFAIR...!
BUT GETTING HAMANASU TO MOVE ASIDE WAS EASY.
WAS SHE SUSPICIOUS?
...RUSHED OUT IN A HUFF.
AND THEN SHE ...
I'M GOING DOWN TO HAVE A TALK ...
...WITH THE NEKOZANE CLAN FAMILY HEAD!
SEIJURO IS GETTING MARRIED...
...BUT I, HIS ELDER SISTER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING...
...
MISTRESS HAMANASU.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE MY BODYGUARD.
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO INDULGE IN SUCH GIRL TALK WITH YOUR BIG BROTHER.
Ha ha.


RIPPLE ...
SMILE

IT WILL BE...
...A SHORT TRIP.

HE WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST...
YUKI...
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER— AS YOU WISH.
DON'T WORRY ...
... TAKA-MICHI.
...CARRIED THE LOAD...
HUG
AND HE...
...ALL BY HIMSELF.
NIGHT ...
...WHATEVER YOU WANT US TO BE.
AND WE'LL BECOME...

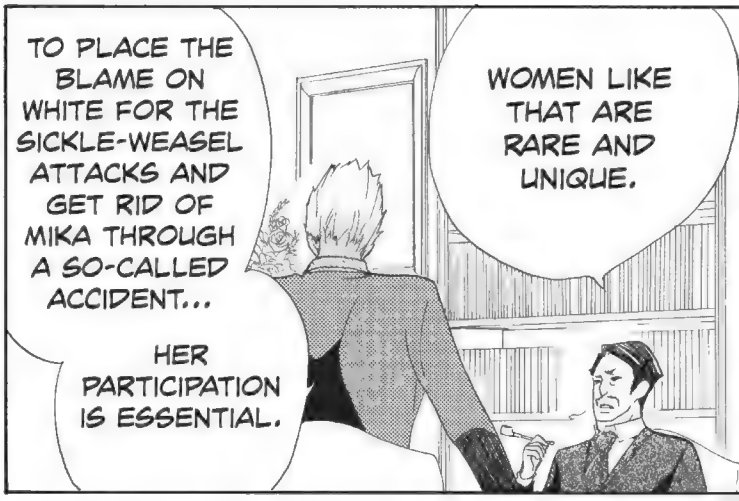
YOU'RE NOT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...SO DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!
YOU CAN GET IN THEIR WAY. I'LL DO THAT TOO. BUT YOU MUSTN'T BITE HIM.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE I WON'T GET IN THEIR WAY.
YOU MUSN'T BITE SEIJURO— EVEN IF HE IS MARRIED TO TAKAMICHI.
HEY, SNOW ...
Never.
IF YOU WANT...
... WHATEVER TAKAMICHI WANTS US TO BE.
WE'RE GOING TO BECOME ...
...
...BECOME ORDINARY DOGS... WHO CAN'T TALK.
... WE'LL ...
...

IF THAT WOULD MAKE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAPPY...
SO...
...PLEASE... ORDER US TO...
...RUN AWAY WITH YOU!!

PLEASE! ORDER US TO RUN AWAY WITH YOU.

IF YOU JUST WANT TO SEE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...I COULD ALWAYS TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO HER FOR YOU.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DYE MY HAIR TOO?
WHITE ...
IF YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN, I'M GOING TO BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOU.
I'VE CONVINCED EVERYBODY THAT YOU CAN ONLY TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO ME.
SO DON'T TRANSFORM INTO ANYONE ELSE WHILE I'M AWAY!
HASN'T MISS WHAT'S-HER-NAME COME OVER TO SEE YOU...?
BOOOOO..!
Damn.
THUD
JUST MAKE SOME SMALL TALK AND GET RID OF HER.
...
HE SAYS THE WOMEN OF THE EIGHT CLANS LACK A SIXTH SENSE SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S ME, BUT...
I HOPE HE ISN'T PLANNING TO USE ME AS HIS DOUBLE ALL THE TIME...
That's how come all the servants are female.
...
BRRR...
IT'S TOO BAD, THOUGH, KANKURO...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HAMANASU ...?

NOZ NOZ
TWT CH

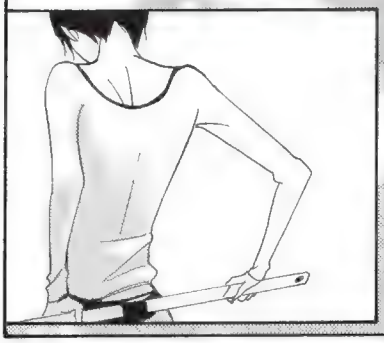

TO PLACE THE BLAME ON WHITE FOR THE SICKLE-WEASEL ATTACKS AND GET RID OF MIKA THROUGH A SO-CALLED ACCIDENT...
HER PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL.
WOMEN LIKE THAT ARE RARE AND UNIQUE.

EXCUSE ME...
MASTER MIKA...?

A NOBLE GOAL SUCH AS OURS REQUIRES A SACRIFICE.

WE DON'T NEED THIS...

HUF
HUF
SP
RRT
WE DON'T NEED...
...EIGHT FAMILY HEADS.
HUF
...!
KNK
QUIT STRUGGLING.
COME NOW ...



I'M NOT YUKI.

THAT'S RIGHT.

SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
WITH YOU TWO BY MY SIDE...
...I'M INVINCIBLE.
SO...
ARE YOU READY?
BUT I HAVE ...
... SNOW AND NIGHT.

JIU JIU 4: THE END

To be continued...

Thanks

Naoko Takeda-sama

Hakusensha

Gendai Shoin

Kenju Noro-sama

Haruka Hodaka-sama

Nakamura Family

Ryo Kikitsu-sama

Mizuho Komata-sama

Nana Ginna-sama

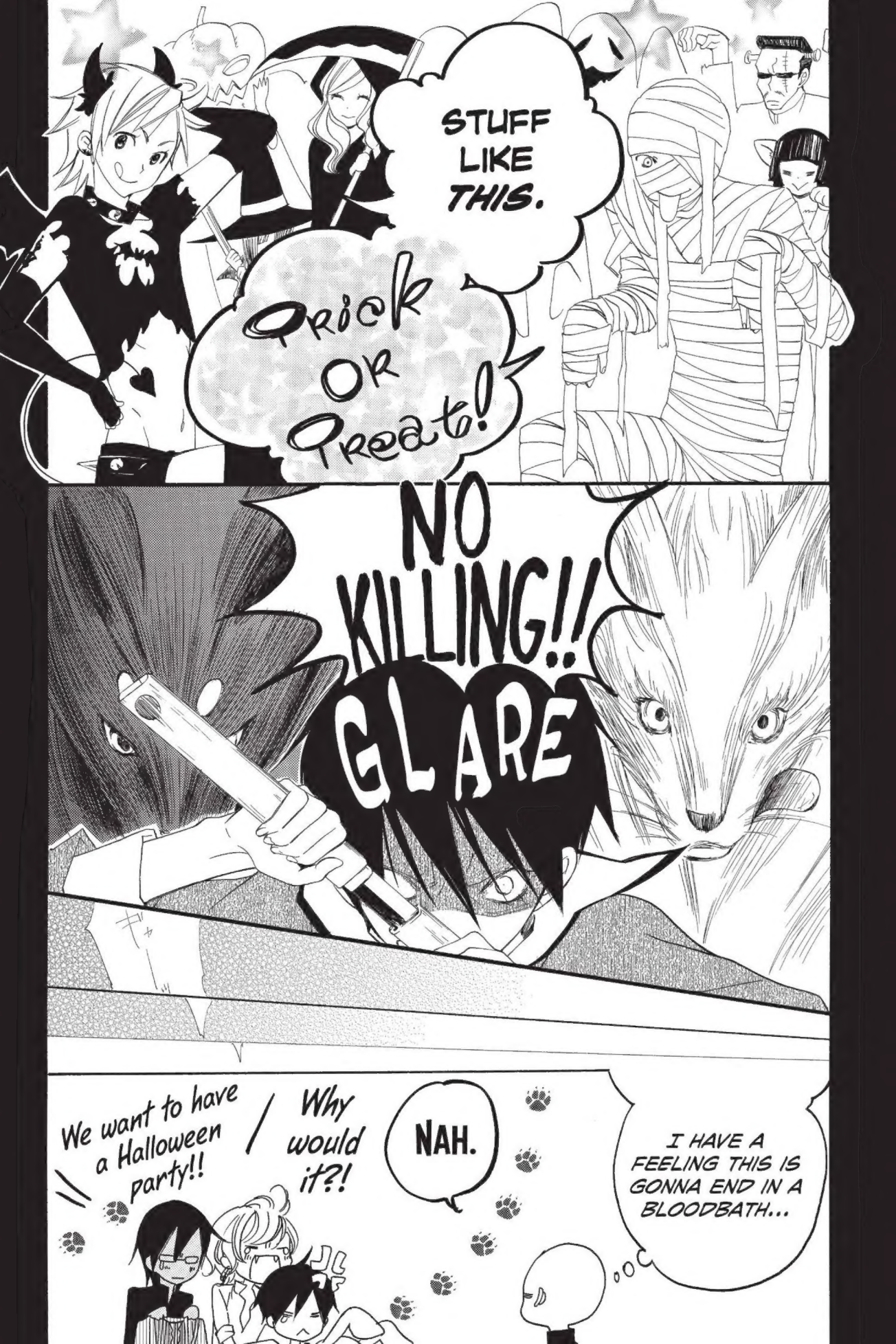
Friends

To everybody involved.

And to you for reading this.

THE HACHIOJIS HAVE NEVER CELEBRATED HALLOWEEN BEFORE...
...SO WE DECIDED TO HOST A COSTUME PARTY FOR THEM.
Fan Service Scene 3
Class 2-A and All Hallow's Eve
OOH, SNOW! NIGHT!
YOU LIKE THESE COSTUMES?
ISN'T THIS WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR?
?
Uhhh... Kind of, but...
HOW DO I PUT THIS...?
We approve.
I approve too.

I'VE GOT IT! MERU IS BOUND TO HAVE THE PROPER ATTIRE...
AH!
After all— he is a vampire.
YOU'RE WEARING YOUR EVERYDAY CLOTHES !!
HA...
BUT THIS IS MY COSTUME.
R- Really...?
OH WELL...
WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR ON HALLOWEEN!


STUFF LIKE THIS.
Trick OR Treat!
NO KILLING!! GLARE
We want to have a Halloween party!!
Why would it?!
NAH.
I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS GONNA END IN A BLOODBATH...

Touya Tobina is from Tokyo. Her birthday is May 23 and her blood type is O. In 2005, her series *Keppeki Shonen Kanzen Soubi* (Clean Freak Fully Equipped) won the grand prize in the 30th Hakusensha Athena Shinjin Taisho (Hakusensha Athena Newcomers Awards).

JIU JIU
VOL. 4
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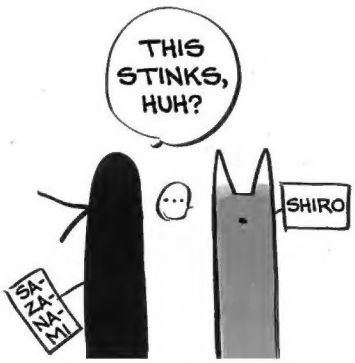

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